



PARK'S REVAMP MOVES FORWARD

BY CHARLOTTE CALLEAR

THE latest revamp plans for Hednesford Park are a 'significant part of the development' of the site, a councillor says.

Multi-million pound proposals for the landmark attraction have already seen a new pavilion and play facilities introduced.

The latest phase of the redevelopment scheme involves plans to build new changing rooms and toilets.

The facilities will be for users of the park and will be located next to the existing pavilion building.

Ward councillor Alan Pearson said: "It is a significant part of the development.

"We had portable buildings there for a little while but they were a bit of a nightmare.

"People got locked in them and it caused all sorts of problems.

"Obviously we need decent toilets in the park for the disabled and children as well so it can only benefit residents."

Since the council secured £2.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a skate park has been built along with a play area, and the pavilion was revamped.

Award

Last year, new lighting had also been installed to make the park safer after Friends of Hednesford Park secured £3,000 from the Office of the Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner which also paid for a teen shelter at the site.

The park scooped a Green Flag Award last year which is the mark of a quality park or green space.

It was one in six parks in Cannock to win an award, making it the highest performing district in the West Midlands.

He added: "Everything has changed since we secured the Heritage Lottery Fund money.

"The whole look of the park is a lot better and we won the Green Flag Award last year.

"It is the best looking park in the area. A lot of money was spent on the skate park and it is very well used - on a sunny day it will be full," Councillor Pearson said.

"The park is helping with healthy lifestyles as it gets children and adults out. It is keeping youths off the streets.

The new plans were being presented to Cannock Chase Council's planning committee yesterday (Wednesday) when members were recommended to push through the project for the new toilets and changing rooms.

SPECIALIST GYM HELPS TO BUILD CONFIDENCE



Front, from left, Julie Tolley, Nicola Smith and MP Amanda Milling at specialist gym Xhersize in Bridgtown

A GYM with a difference is helping women with disabilities and mobility issues to keep active.

Specialist gym Xhersize has been launched in Bridgtown by Julie Tolley, who wanted to open a gym which was accessible to all women, regardless of age or disabilities.

The gym is fitted with motorised equipment which takes on the work for those who struggle with movement. It means women who otherwise may not have been able to use

a gym can help keep in shape and meet new friends. Julie, aged 41, previously worked at a gym in Cannock and was inspired to set up her own fitness centre. She said: "It is more geared towards people with mobility issues, those who have had joint replacements, have suffered a stroke or have arthritis.

"The equipment is motorised to move for you or you can work against it. It's for ladies who have confidence issues or health issues and don't want to go to a standard gym. For

a lot of them this is their lifeline. It is getting them out, keeping them active and keeping their minds active."

The gym has welcomed women of all ages and fitness levels since opening in April.

Its oldest member is 86 while Nicola Smith, 68, from Great Wyrley, who has osteo and rheumatoid arthritis and has had 43 operations, says it is a godsend. She said: "I have lost two and a half stone. Going there has been brilliant. It is good company as well."

CRIME

Police in appeal after rifle stolen from car

AN air rifle has been stolen from a car in Staffordshire. The rifle, a left-handed BSA R10 with a walnut stock, black barrel and nico stirring scope, was taken from the boot of a car on Old Penkridge Road, Cannock, some time overnight between Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17.

The gun is not believed to be a threat as canisters are required to shoot it, which the owner had previously removed.

Anybody with information relating to this incident is asked to contact Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting reference 308 17/06/2018.

CELEBRITY

Eye, eye . . . who's this buying specs?

STAFF at an opticians were left more than a little star-struck when Hollyoaks actor Tom Vaughan popped in.

The team at Specsavers in Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, recognised Tom immediately from his time playing Spike in the Channel 4 show in 2007.

Store director Minal Naik said: "When Tom came in, word quickly spread." The sight test was conducted as normal and the staff were able afterwards to give Tom his prescription.

TRAGEDY

Fireworks boss starts jail term

A BOSS whose fireworks factory was jammed packed with explosives has started a 10-year prison sentence.

Richard Pearson looked on emotionless as he was locked up for causing the deaths of colleague Simon Hillier, aged 41, and customer Stewart Staples, 57, both from Hednesford.

● Full report - Page 13

INSIDE AN ARTIST WITH STAR QUALITY



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Specials have a new officer in charge



Craig Burton - 'honoured'

STAFFORDSHIRE Police has appointed a new officer to lead its Special Constabulary.

Assistant Chief Officer Craig Burton was sworn in as leader at a recent force ceremony, which also marks a change in the way the county's specials are used to police local communities.

Mr Burton, who has been in policing for the last 35 years, will be looking to increase the way Specials support local policing and ensure that the volunteers are used to their fullest capacity.

In his role Craig will be part of the neighbourhood and partnership team

led by Chief Supt Jeff Moore. Mr Burton began his career in 1983 as a Special Constable for Staffordshire Police, before becoming a regular officer with both West Midlands Police and the Staffordshire force.

As a police officer he worked in both response and neighbourhood, reaching the rank of Inspector.

He also specialised in a number of areas including public order command, leading the response to a chemical, biological or radiological attack, managing the search for missing people, becoming a Senior Investigating Officer for fatal

road traffic collisions and acting as a force mentor to junior officers.

After his retirement in 2016, he took up the role of force gym coordinator at Staffordshire, a role which he will continue with while he juggles the responsibility of Assistant Chief Officer.

Accepting the role, Mr Burton said: "I'm really excited and honoured to take on this new position."

"I believe I can help develop the talents of my officers and streamline the Special Constabulary to make it an indispensable part of Staffordshire Police," he added.

Speed limit cuts at accident blackspot

THE speed limit at an accident blackspot where a woman died and a motorcyclist was seriously injured could be cut.

Two major incidents on the A51 at Great Haywood at the junction of Toldish Lane in the last two years could lead to the speed limit being reduced to 50mph.

From 2012 to 2016, three people have been injured in collisions at the junction, including two minor injuries, and a serious collision in 2016.

In the latter incident, one person was airlifted to hospital after the accident which involved a VW Caddy van, a Vauxhall Astra and a motorbike.

The motorcyclist had suffered hip and leg injuries but his injuries were not life threatening.

Xhd

It was followed by a fatal collision last year where 26-year-old Katie Bennett from Market Drayton died after the car she was driving - an Audi A3 - was involved in a collision with a Scania Tanker truck on November 13.

The £50,000 plan has been welcomed by councillors.

A report says 'Failing to look properly' and/or 'Failed to judge the other person's path or speed' were contributory factors attributed to the collision and not 'Exceeding the speed limit' or 'Travelling too fast for conditions'.

● A driver was cut free after a three-vehicle crash left his car on its side on Monday. The 77-year-old was taken to hospital by ambulance after the collision on the A34 in Stafford. Two vans and a car were involved in the incident, which happened near Queens Retail Park shortly after 1pm.

The A34 Queensville Bridge was closed between Silkmore Lane and St Leonard's Avenue. A Staffordshire Police spokesman said: "The vehicles involved were a blue Vauxhall Meriva, a white Citroen Nemo van and a red Fiat Fiorino."

Ex-Wolves stars on ball for World Cup



Ex-Wolves players Steve Kindon, Matt Murray and Steve Daley, pictured with signed memorabilia, made up a panel at Cannock's Bar Sport hosting the televised viewing of England's opening World Cup fixture against Tunisia

NHS interns scheme is the first of its kind

A PIONEERING internship programme is helping to support GPs and other healthcare providers.

The Staffordshire Physician Associate (PA) Internship is the first initiative of its kind to offer structured placements for groups of PAs within primary and secondary care along with a structured teaching programme.

The first group of PAs to have completed the programme are now working alongside local GPs and other healthcare professionals.

Further cohorts of students are coming to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent from across the country to embark on the internship.

The programme is led by the North Staffordshire GP Federation in partnership with University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.

It also includes other provider NHS trusts in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, as well as a growing list of local GP practices.

It forms part of the Workforce Programme of Together We're Better (STP), the partnership of NHS and local government organisations that is working to transform health and care for people locally.

Physician Associates are medically trained healthcare professionals.

The internship allows PAs to spend three days a week working in general practice and the other two days as part of an acute or mental health team.

Finning in profit thanks to review

CATERPILLAR supplier Finning, which has its UK headquarters in Cannock, has returned to profit for 2017.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £20.2 million after a loss of £7.8m in 2016.

Revenue was also up from £535.4m to £621.3m.

Finning UK, which is part of Canada's Finning International group, employs more than 1,400 people in this country.

The directors said that the results reflected both the improved market conditions and the successful implementation of an action plan that was developed following the comprehensive strategic review of the company's operations undertaken by the directors in 2016.

Lots of stalls at fair

THE annual summer fair is being held at St Thomas' Church, in Stafford Road, Huntington, on Saturday, June 30 between 11am and 3pm. Stalls include plants, handmade soaps, jewellery, jams, chocolates and books. Outside activities, weather permitting, include a tombola.

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Police issue warning on spate of break-ins

RESIDENTS are being urged to review their security after a spate of break-ins and attempted burglaries.

On Thursday, Staffordshire Police received reports of a number of shed break-ins taking place in Stafford Road, Penkridge.

Officers said the padlocks to sheds had been cut off and a number of garden and power tools taken.

This comes after reports of attempts to break into work vans in the Penkridge area. There has also been a number of breaks to storage sheds on farms in the area.

A spokesman said: "Staffordshire Police recommend that all tools are removed from vehicles over night.

"Staffordshire Police would also encourage everyone to review their security arrangements."

Security advice can be found by visiting www.staf.fordshire.police.uk

Meanwhile, a warning has gone out over rogue traders believed to be operating in Staffordshire.

Staffordshire Police say there have been a number of calls regarding people knocking on doors and then not carrying out work that they are charging money for.

A spokesman said: "While at the address they will ask to come in for a drink and distract the home owner so that they can have a look through the home for valuables when the owner's back is turned."

Teenager denies threat to kill

A MAN has appeared in court charged with a number of offences including threats to kill after an incident that locked down Stafford College in May.

Keiron Walker, aged 19, of Ebenezer Street, Hednesford, appeared at Stafford Crown Court on Friday via video link for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

He pleaded not guilty to two charges of threat to kill and possession of an article with a blade or a point in connection with the incident at the college's town centre campus on May 15.

Walker also pleaded not guilty to wounding with intent, following an incident in Rugeley the same day.

Recorder Stephen Thomas remanded Walker in custody, with a trial set to start on September 18.

New members bid

A WOMEN'S Institute wants to welcome new members. The Rugeley group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at St Paul's Church in Lichfield Street. For more details, contact Barbara on 01889 804889.

Firm takes a stand to support Saddlers



HomeServe's John Greaves, centre, with Saddlers' Dean Keates and Stefan Gamble

WALSALL fans will have the chance to watch their team from the newly named HomeServe Stand next season after the club extended its partnership with the firm.

The home assistance provider, which is based in the town, has sponsored Walsall's shirts for the past four years.

But they have now extended that partnership to sponsor the two-tiered stand, which is seen by millions of drivers every year as they pass the Banks's Stadium on the M6.

Previously known as both the Gil-

bert Alsop Stand and lately the Tile Choice Stand, it has now been rebranded in the company's red colours and renamed the HomeServe Stand.

The investment is part of a five-year commitment by HomeServe in the club and is in addition to shirt sponsorship. The new branding was unveiled at the Banks's Stadium with Saddlers manager Dean Keates, players Liam Roberts and Liam Kinsella and chief executive Stefan Gamble in attendance.

"The continued support of HomeServe - one of the region's biggest

employers and an incredibly successful blue chip business - is fantastic for a club with the ambitions we have," said Mr Gamble.

HomeServe has received an award for occupational health and safety. It earned a 'gold medal' from safety charity Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The RoSPA Gold Medal is handed to businesses achieving five or more consecutive 'gold' ratings. HomeServe has now secured an eighth consecutive gold. The award will be presented at a ceremony on July 4.

Cost-cutting authority is owed millions of pounds

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council is waiting to receive large sums of money for services it has provided - with two NHS bodies owing more than £1 million.

The council is also waiting on an outstanding debt of £300,000 owed by Wolverhampton council. The authority has published a list of its biggest debtors, with the outstanding cash increasing financial pressures.

According to the county council report, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire owe the most, at £1.4m and £1.07m respectively, while Derby City Council owes £467,000 and Stoke on Trent City Council £401,000. It is not unusual for payments between local authorities and health bodies to be delayed. However, the amount owed is more than £8m over what county council bosses had planned for.

The report said: "The level of outstanding sundry debt over six months old at March 31, 2018 was £10.5m, this exceeds the target of £2.250m by £8.25m. This is an increase of £0.9m since quarter four."

Reduced

Ten organisations - six CCGs (£3.036m), three local authorities (£1.446m) and a commercial organisation (£122,0000) - each owe in excess of £100,000 that is over six months old, totalling £4.6m. The outstanding payments have piled further pressure on the county council, which approved £47m of cuts last year.

Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for finance Mike Sutherland said: "The debt owed predominantly relates to social care and school transport costs. The figure listed on this week's cabinet paper is from March 31 and so the debt level has reduced.

"For example, the debt owed by the City of Wolverhampton Council has fallen from £0.6million to £0.3million. Updated figures will be published next month."

A Wolverhampton council spokesman said: "We will be talking to our colleagues in Staffordshire to ensure this matter is resolved as quickly as possible." A spokesman for the two CCGs said: "The CCGs remain in discussion."



Library assistant Matt Wells at Norton Canes Community Library where the JRR Tolkien exhibition is on display until July 14

Another venue for Tolkien display

AN exhibition celebrating the author of The Lord of the Rings and his links with Staffordshire is now on display at Norton Canes Community Library.

This insight into the early years of JRR Tolkien, one of the world's best-loved writers, and his time spent in the county, has already been seen by more than 250,000 visitors since it launched in March 2016.

It includes rare photos and copies of original sketches by Tolkien, not seen in Staffordshire since they left with the author in 1918, specially loaned by The Tolkien Estate and Bodleian Library. The exhibition is open during normal library opening times until July 14.

Forthcoming venues and dates include Hednesford from Tuesday, July 17 to Saturday, September 1; Shenstone, September 4 to October 13; and Penkridge Library, Tuesday, October 16 to Saturday, December 1.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gogglebox's Sandra to open annual fair

BETHEL Church in Union Street, Bridgtown, will be holding its annual summer fair with sponsored jog or amble next month.

Following on from the success of last year's event, it will take place on July 14, from 1pm onwards, raising funds for the church's continued renovation.

There will be fairground games, bouncy castle, a barbecue and other attractions as well as a performance by The Bridgtown Concert Band.

The event is being opened by Gogglebox star Sandra Martin. Organisers say more details will be available closer to the time.

Former champion Tyson in bar date

FORMER World Champion Tyson Fury arrives in Cannock for what is sure to be a knockout night at The Premier Suite next month.

Fury, who won the unified world titles after defeating champion Vladimir Klitschko in November 2015, will be at the venue in High Green on July 5.

Fury was later stripped of his titles and only made his comeback fight earlier this month against Sefer Seferi. His opponent pulled out in the fourth round. Fans can enjoy a gourmet meal, after-dinner speech and entertainment from a comedian.

Raiders targeting clubs, say officers

A NUMBER of social clubs have been targeted by thieves.

Staffordshire Police say there have been a number of incidents take place overnight at clubs, based predominantly in the South Staffordshire and Lichfield area. Police believe the social clubs are being targeted for cash from gaming machines, tills and safes.

Offenders are believed to be forcing their way in mainly via fire doors.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Police said: "Please remain vigilant and ensure these vulnerable locations are secured."

New jobs as health food shop reopens

HOLLAND & Barrett has reopened its store in the Three Shires Shopping Centre in Lichfield.

It showcases the latest concepts in specialist food, ethical beauty and sports nutrition.

It also carries weight management and vitamin products.

The store opened its doors last Wednesday after moving from its Market Street location. The opening of the store has created three new jobs.

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COUNTY NEWS

Jab reminder to fend off cat virus

PET owners are being urged to protect their feline friends from a fatal virus. The RSPCA has issued a plea to residents to get their cats vaccinated against feline panleukopenia.

It comes after an outbreak of the fatal disease across the region last summer, which saw 40 cats treated at Birmingham's Newbrook Animal Hospital.

Joanna Szkutnicki, senior clinician at the hospital, said: "Feline panleukopenia is a severe disease that most often proves fatal. Most cats contract it from a contaminated environment via infected faeces." Symptoms can include vomiting and diarrhoea.

Fresh signs of life in housing market

THE housing market is showing renewed signs of life in the West Midlands, improving for the first time in three years, with more homes going up for sale.

A lack of supply of homes on the local market has been holding it back but the latest report from chartered surveyors found most were seeing that situation improve. As a result the number of sales has gone up in May as the market turns positive for the first time since September 2015.

And demand from buyers has risen for the first time this year, according to the RICS UK Residential Market Survey for the West Midlands.

Hello Culture, as it returns to Brum

ANNUAL digital symposium Hello Culture returns to Birmingham City University tomorrow, Friday.

The conference will explore experimentation in digital technology providing artists and arts organisations access to new thinking, ideas, forms of practice and artistic experimentation and expression.

It is free to attend, but spaces are limited. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance on the Hello Culture website.

RSPCA focusing on animals and humans

YOUNGSTERS are being asked to take photos showing the many ways in which humans can impact animals for a new category of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2018.

For the first time, a category exploring 'The Human Impact on Animals' will be included for under 19s.

The closing date is 4pm on August 17. Entrants can submit their images online at: www.rspca.org.uk/ypa/18

Owl sanctuary plans axed after 2 years

A £900,000 owl sanctuary project has been scrapped two years after work started on it due to bosses failing to agree over plans for the site.

The World Owl Trust (WOT) started work on the scheme at Himley Park near Dudley in 2016, with a team of volunteers embarking on a clear-up of the famous old walled garden area.

The 11,500 square metre site had been derelict for 25 years, and was set to have a conservation centre featuring the biggest collection of owls in the country, a cafe, a shop and an education centre.

But WOT has now pulled out, citing 'irreconcilable differences' with officials brought in by Dudley Council to run the rule over the scheme.

The WOT has been temporarily

based at The Animal Zone in South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus since 2015. Its previous headquarters was in Cumbria.

Alan Peace, chair of the WOT, said the trust's focus was on conservation, while the West Midlands Historic Building Trust (WMHBT) wanted a full restoration of the walled garden.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said he had sympathies with the

WOT and hoped they would reconsider their decision. "As a council we don't want to see assets neglected or sold off, we want to see them brought back into use," he said.

The walled garden dates back to the mid-18th Century. A model village opened at the site in 1984 but shut down after around 10 years.

No-one at the WMHBT was available to comment on the matter.

Crackdown on waste sites costing £600m

By Peter Madeley

ORGANISED criminal gangs that fly-tip and dispose of waste illegally on an industrial scale are to be targeted in a government crackdown.

The move is intended to tackle the 850 new illegal waste sites discovered each year that are estimated to cost the taxpayer more than £600 million.

Staffordshire and the Black Country have seen a number of serious fires at illegal waste sites in recent years, including one involving 1,000 tonnes of rubbish at a farm in Slitting Mill, Rugeley, in 2016, which burned for more than a year.

A Home Office study found criminal networks were using illegal waste management operations - including running huge waste sites - as a cover for crimes including money laundering, human trafficking, fraud and the supply of drugs and firearms.

Risk

The Government's review will try to work out better ways of targeting criminals, as well as looking at how police, communities and the Environment Agency can work together.

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling said: "Illegal waste sites are becoming big business for organised crime gangs and, along with fly-tipping, pose a risk to public safety."

"I am very pleased the Government is looking at this matter as it is an issue I have been raising with the Government since the Slitting Mill fire."

Lizzie Noel, who will lead the review, said: "The health of our communities, environment, and economy is being harmed. This review is an opportunity to properly understand the extent of this criminal activity, and I look forward to working with a range of partners to ensure our response is robust and effective."

Jade's art works have star quality



Jade Mawson with one of her drawings - comedian Ricky Gervais is a fan of her work

HER intricate works of art have grabbed the attention of comedian Ricky Gervais.

Now Jade Mawson is preparing for her upcoming exhibition where she will flaunt her creative talents to the public.

The 27-year-old from Hednesford has crafted a vibrant array of drawings after deciding she would pick up her pencils in her spare time.

The piano teacher said: "My mum always drew and is a good artist, she's good at drawing, so she taught me when I was little."

Ms Mawson started practising her skill by capturing

the faces of celebrities. Her artwork of Gervais managed to grab the star's attention, with the comedian 'liking' and 'retweeting' Ms Mawson's Twitter post displaying her piece.

The portrait of the actor, known for his role in BBC show The Office, took Ms Mawson just a week-and-a-half.

She said: "It was brilliant. It was nice to see that he had looked at it and he obviously liked it as well."

"I want to make sure the art looks as real as can be."

A collection of her animal prints will be exhibited at the Museum of Cannock Chase next year.

Ex-MP tells peers not to hold up Brexit bill

FORMER Lichfield MP Bruce Grocott has called for Brexit legislation to be pushed through as soon as possible.

Lord Grocott used a debate to urge fellow peers not to delay key legislation by making further changes to it.

The former Labour MP said the EU (Withdrawal) Bill had already received 'exceptional scrutiny'. He said the Bill was a 'direct and unavoidable consequence' of the EU referendum and the Lords should expedite it to avoid a 'cliff edge'.

As the Lords began debate on Commons amendments to the legislation, the former chief whip said he wouldn't support any proposals which 'further prolong this Bill'.

Lord Grocott's comments came after the Prime Minister warned that Parliament must not be able to overturn the will of the British people as a fresh battle loomed over giving Parliament a meaningful vote on the outcome of Brexit talks.

Peers inflicted 15 defeats on the Government during the Bill's report stage but agreed to step back from a further challenge over continued participation in a customs union with the EU.

Lord Grocott was challenged by former Tory MP for South Staffordshire Patrick Cormack.

Lord Cormack denied that peers had tried to frustrate the Bill's progress, insisting their aim had been to improve the legislation before it became law.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of," he said. "We have not procrastinated or delayed unduly. We have merely exercised our constitutional responsibility."

Day to celebrate favourite fiction

YOUNG readers from across Staffordshire will gather for the grand finale of their annual book award.

The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford will once again play host to Staffordshire's Young Teen Fiction Award Celebration Day on Tuesday, July 3.

The scheme, now in its 13th year, is designed to encourage the young people to enjoy reading books and share their enthusiasm with others.

Hundreds of 11 to 14-year-olds who either live or go to school in Staffordshire, or use Staffordshire libraries, have been voting for their favourite reads since September.

This year, schools will participate in a Beat the Buzz quiz about the nominated titles. The closing date for online voting is June 25 at 5pm. Visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ytf

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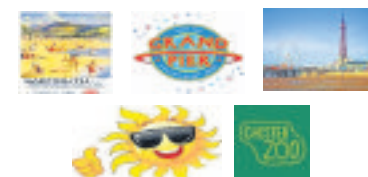
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Free leisure membership for forces to continue

MEMBERS of the Armed Forces living in the Cannock Chase district can enjoy another year of free leisure centre membership.

Cannock Chase Council first introduced the leisure concessions in 2012.

And the benefit, on offer to residents serving in the forces including active Territorial Army (TA) reservists, will continue into 2018-19 after the council's cabinet gave the go-ahead last week.

Free membership to Rugeley and Chase leisure centres is available to eligible residents and this includes use of swimming pools and fitness suites and group activities and fitness classes. Sports hall and meeting room bookings are not included, however.

Last year, 155 forces members took up the offer, with 58 registered at Rugeley Leisure Centre and 97 at Cannock's Chase Leisure Centre.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, culture and sport portfolio leader, said: "Some years ago we decided we would like to provide this service for serving members of the Armed Forces to recognise the work and lives they give to this country. It has been successful again this year."

"There is a cost to [district leisure services provider] Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles but they do get a number of benefits such as the number of family relatives joining the gym. There is no cost to this council this year."

Pupils to attend STEM celebration

HUNDREDS of pupils from Midland schools are to attend a Celebrating Science and Engineering event at Lichfield Cathedral next week.

The gathering on Tuesday, June 26, is the conclusion of a programme at the region's schools to encourage young people to become more interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Susan Hannam, headteacher of Lichfield Cathedral School, said: "We are delighted to be holding this celebratory event in Lichfield Cathedral – over 250 young people from schools across the Midlands will be attending."

"It marks the conclusion of this extensive programme, geared to stimulate interest among youngsters in science and engineering."

Talk on Johnson

SUE Bray will give a talk on Samuel Johnson at a meeting of Cheslyn Hay & District Local History Society on Thursday, June 28, at the Salem, in High Street, Cheslyn Hay. Admission is £1. For details call 01922 410021.

It's 007 heaven as poster fetches £7,000



The James Bond film poster

A RARE James Bond movie poster has sold for one of the highest prices ever at auction – almost £7,000.

The 1964 Goldfinger 'Style B' poster by Robert Brownjohn eventually went for £6,700 to a winning bidder over the phone during the Lichfield-based Richard Winterton's Collectors Sale.

It is thought to be one of the highest prices paid to date for such a poster.

Another poster advertising Sean Connery's previous James Bond film, 1963's From Russia With Love, achieved the lower end of the estimate

of £1,000. Both posters were printed by Stafford & Co, the main printers for film posters at the time, and came from an address in Tamworth.

Rob French, customer relations manager at Richard Winterton Auctioneers, said: "We knew we had got something special from the amount of interest from the internet and telephone calls requesting more information and condition of the poster."

"But the final amount achieved was quite amazing and rocketed past the estimate." Auctioneer Mr Winterton said: "From a dusty old farmhouse

down the road ... bang! You never know what's behind every door – every time."

Also discovered in Tamworth – but at a separate address – was a signed letter from the first man on the moon Neil Armstrong, which sold in the Collectors Sale for £620.

The letter – on NASA letterheaded paper – was sent to the vendor's father, Birmingham man Mr J Smith, from Eltonia Croft, Sheldon, one month before the lunar landing, in response to a book his father had sent the three Apollo 11 astronauts.

Sale of former school field 'a good thing'

A FORMER school playing field in Cannock is being sold off by Staffordshire County Council.

The acre of land off Girtan Road was last used 12 years ago, according to the council. But after the school – Springvale Primary – was merged with another, it has been empty, and is being sold for housing.

The land was marketed at £700,000. The school had around 120 pupils, and closed in 2006 due to falling numbers.

Its remaining pupils were transferred to Bridgtown Primary, which received a cash injection as part of the move.

The move has been welcomed by Cannock Chase Council deputy leader Gordon Alcott, who said there were more than 800 people on the council's housing waiting list.

He said: "If this land is surplus to requirement and housing can be built to relieve the housing situation, then that can only be a good thing. There is no point having land laying vacant and not being used."

Jobs

Philip White, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for learning and employability, said: "The council has a duty to review its assets and use them in the best possible way."

"Sales of unneeded land and other unused assets can be put towards building schools, roads, superfast broadband and extra care facilities, as well as creating industrial estates such as i54 South Staffordshire and Four Ashes Business Park to attract and safeguard new and existing jobs for the benefit of residents."

Since 2015, the council has sold off eight school sites, most of them due to mergers of schools or the building of new ones. They include a sub-station site at West Road High School in Stafford for £1 and land at the rear of Chase Terrace Primary School for £327,045.

Councillor White added: "Five of the eight sales are of land where there is no longer a school, because the school has either closed or moved to a new site. One was a plot not needed by the school; and the final two were small plots sold for £1 to allow the building of electrical sub-stations for the local community."

Cancer tragedy inspires beard shave



Chuck Micallef, left, gets some advice from Simon Orme from Hednesford's SOS Barber Shop

CANCER has struck Chuck Micallef's life hard over the years – losing his brother, wife and partner in five years.

It started in September 2008 when he lost his brother Jimmy and then his wife Janet a month later. Then five years later the disease took the life of his beloved partner Emma in October 2013.

Now, in their memory, and to

support people living with the disease, Chuck is fighting back.

Chuck, who swapped Canada for Cannock over two decades ago, will shave off his huge beard to support the University Hospitals of North Midlands and Keel University's Cancer Research Team.

The 62-year-old said: "I am doing the fundraiser to honour the memory of my brother Jimmy, my

wife Janet and my partner Emma, all of whom are beautiful people with lives shortened by a disease that I would like to fight."

The charity shave is on July 1 from 1pm at Hednesford and District Ex-Serviceman's Club.

So far Chuck has raised nearly £300. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chucksbeardhasgottogo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Photos to delve into area's past

PHOTOGRAPHS spanning more than 100 years of Chadsmoor history will be on display during a fundraising coffee morning in the village.

Saturday will see Chadsmoor History Society inviting residents from throughout the Cannock Chase district to Chadsmoor Methodist Church between 10.30am and midday to delve into the past.

The group are also looking for members of the public to bring along their old photos to share memories of the area.

Admission is free to all who attend and there will also be stalls and displays from throughout the local area.

Manufacturers in 'jewel' exhibition

MANUFACTURERS from across Staffordshire are taking part today in an industry exhibition organised by Made in the Midlands (MIM).

Firms participating include Cannock-based clamping specialist Hainbuch, Hednesford's laser cutting specialist Laser Process, and Cannock-based pressings firms RSD Pressings and SMB Pressings.

The exhibition, now in its ninth year, is being held at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry.

MIM's CEO Jason Pitt said: "This exhibition is the jewel in our crown."

Annual meeting for village hall

THE annual meeting of the Slitting Mill Village Hall management committee is to be held on Friday, June 29.

All are welcome to attend the meeting at 7pm in the hall, which serves as a venue for several local club activities.

Each week it has two evenings for dog training – Monday and Tuesday – while Wednesday is folk dancing and Thursday is a photographic club.

Each month there are a variety of groups organised by Cannock Chase USA that are held during the day.

Charity is looking for collection volunteers

A CHARITY is looking for volunteers to help with a collection in Cannock.

Shine supports more than 11,500 people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who have spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus. The charity has booked a collection at Asda in Cannock on September 13 and is looking for people to help.

To find out more, contact Rachel Thomas on 07464 674933 or email rachel.thomas@shinecharity.org.uk

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Gunners' aid cash is a kick in the teeth

AS our Government prepares to hand over £62 million this year in aid to Rwanda, the country's dictator Paul Kagame has decided to return the favour by giving half of it back to his favourite football team, Arsenal.

Mr Kwagame, whose citizens typically live on about £1 a day, has decided the best way to improve the lot of his people is to sponsor the Gunners to the tune of £10m a year for the next three years.

And in return, the new Arsenal kit will have the logo Visit Rwanda emblazoned across the chest.

And Paul and his mates will be able to make full use of a hospitality box at Arsenal home games. What's not to like?

On hearing that news, my first thought was 'why don't we ever give overseas aid to dictators who support Aston Villa?' Boy, judging from the events of the past couple of weeks, the Claret and Blue Army could certainly use £30m.

And giving money to Villa would certainly be closer to the ideal of helping the less fortunate in the world than handing it over to the billionaires of north London.

But joking apart, how can this be a good use of taxpayers' money, at least for non-Arsenal supporting taxpayers?

Now I'm not one of the naysayers who harrumphs 'charity begins at home' every time the subject of international aid is mentioned. I do believe that as long as there is starvation in the world, that those of us who are fortunate to find ourselves among the richest one per cent of the world have a responsibility to do what we can to help.

And also, from a purely pragmatic point of view, if people in the world's poorest countries have access to decent food and medicine, they are less likely to stow-away in the back of lorries and end up living on the streets of Britain.

What is stupid, though, is the arbitrary target of 0.7 per of GDP set by David Cameron, which determines that a fixed amount of money has to be handed over to developing countries, irrespective of what the actual need is.

Some years there will be an argument for spending more than 0.7 per cent of GDP, some years we probably need to spend less.

But when the need to give away taxpayers' money just to meet a politically correct target results in millions being indirectly donated to a moneybags football team from north London, it is not only wasteful and immoral – it is also a spectacular own goal.

Historic summit with leader playing his Trump card



Poldark's shirtless scene gets people talking, or does it? Answers on a postcard...



Trump gets tough with G7 leaders, and then cosies up with Kim Jong-Un in North Korea



Graduates to become a detective in three months? Sherlock didn't need university

Get it off your chest as Poldark returns

"SHIRTLESS Poldark Gets Everyone Talking" (BBC headline). Not in this column, it doesn't.

LIFE among Guardian readers is as fraught as ever. One writes to an agony aunt "My girlfriend wants a polysexual relationship. I don't. What should we do?" Isn't it obvious? Shoot the parrot.

A READER, lamenting the closure of local banks, wonders whether they might be able to keep a few more branches open if only they reduced the "obscene" bonuses paid to some bank bosses. Nice idea but that would mean banks treating their customers as though they valued them. Under the present arrangements the banks regard customers as numbers while spending millions of pounds on TV adverts pretending that they really, really value us. Anyone else sick to death of black horses?

WE are on holiday this week in Beer, Devon, and came upon a strange incident down the coast in Seaton where a dog, chained outside a shop, managed to get a foot caught in its lead and was yelping for help. What would you do? While you're mentally rehearsing your own heroism, I should point out that this agitated dog was a huge English bull terrier with jaws like T-rex. Massive respect to the old chap who, knowing nothing about this beast, coolly stepped forward to untangle it, and promptly got a good licking as the terrier's new best friend, while the rest of us dithered.

I ONCE worked on a newspaper founded in

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



1805 and I spent hours poring through old editions. One advert, from 1806, was headed "For the inspection of the curious." It described an exhibition of gallstones, some tiny and others huge, recently extracted from the guts of a cow. Back in 1805 people actually paid to see such things. How laughable, how primitive and how much we have changed. You think? This week one news website was offering, for the inspection of the curious: "Watch a huge Galapagos tortoise eat a cactus at San Diego Zoo." We don't change that much. I bet today's internet generation would pack the town square to ogle a public execution.

TALKING of which, in the entire history of English courts, were felons ever reprieved on the gallows and allowed to walk away scot-free, as seen in Poldark? Having been spared the most terrible punishment of death by hanging, the sentence would surely be commuted to the second-worst punishment, being forced to be Australians.

WE are told that Trump's sharp words after the G7 were intended to make him look tough before the North Korea talks. If so, it was a high-risk strategy. What if Angela Merkel had pinched his nose and made him cry?

MORE mysteries of the digital age. Friends came to visit us down here in Devon and texted us from Honiton, just eight miles up the road. They got here before their text arrived.

ANOTHER digital mystery. Having accidentally dunked my camera in Loch Lomond last month, I am using another old one which takes photos, displays them briefly but then seemed to consume them without trace. Turns out it has been filing them away in the section of its memory dated 2012, possibly because Beer, Devon in 2018 is almost identical to Beer, Devon in 2012. Or in 1812 for that matter.

AND before the techies among you rush to say it is possible to save a camera after it has been soaked, it really isn't. There may be online accounts of cameras being brought back to life by total immersion in dried rice, by the extremely quick-thinking and well-prepared but, as a rule, the battery is knackered one nano-second after hitting the water and the electronics a nano-second later. You can try the dried-rice remedy on your dripping camera but the misted lenses, like the eyes of a dying animal, tell the true story. The kindest thing is to bin it.

MINISTERS have announced a new project to turn graduates into detectives in just three months. As long as that? How much training does it take to say over the phone: "We can't get anyone there until Wednesday. Have you contacted Victim Support? Here's your crime number..." It's not all Sherlock.

TALKING POINT

Waiters' term takes on guise of insincerity

IF there is one thing guaranteed to make a visit to a restaurant less enjoyable these days it is the way that waiting staff seem to think it is essential to refer to customers as 'guys'. I am not glad to be guy (apologies to Tom Robinson), in fact the term is starting to get on my pip.

During a meal recently my wife and I were referred to repeatedly as 'guys'. What would you like to drink guys? Are you ready to order guys? Is everything OK guys? Can we take your plates guys? Would you like to see the sweet menu guys?

I accept that their use of the term was intended in a friendly manner and that they had probably been told to use it by their boss because it is widely considered to be informal and gender neutral.

I didn't expect for us to be called sir or madam (well, I might if it was the Ritz) but the over use of the term becomes grating especially when there is no need to add 'guys' to any of the above sentences anyway.

It's not that I think it is a sexist term, I doubt it is ever used to make females feel ill at ease and I think it far more likely a group of women would take issue with being addressed as 'dolls' or 'gals'.

It is just so American, a term that one might expect in a US burger joint.

Frankly, I would even prefer 'bab', 'chick' or 'cocker' to 'guys', at least that would make me laugh and has a certain Black Country charm.

Like much American slang, the word guy has made a transatlantic journey and come back with a different meaning. Britain and America are, after all, two nations divided by a common language (an observation first attributed to George Bernard Shaw).

The original word does go back to Guy Fawkes, the infamous gunpowder plotter.

It found use in the feverish paranoid atmosphere of 17th century Britain when the new Protestant establishment feared Roman Catholics backed by France and Spain were plotting against them. Back then a group of 'guys' were shady looking characters with dubious, probably criminal, intent. In American it became a colloquial phrase with more positive connotations, meaning a group of friends, colleagues or team-mates.

The problem is that 'guys' is such a lazy, hollow cliché of a word that is smacks of insincerity even when the intention is to be welcoming, warm and friendly.

So please, hard-working waiting staff everywhere, drop the 'guys'... and don't get me started on 'folks'.

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Town centre's M&S to close down in August

Messi? Stub out the litter



Enforcement Officer Katie McKinney with the new bin

A COUNCIL has come up with a novel World Cup anti-litter initiative to stop a town getting Messi.

Smokers will be encouraged to cast their votes on the performance of the England football team in Stafford using cigarette butts – in a bid to stop the litter situation becoming Dier.

Stafford Borough Council has put up a cigarette butt ballot box bin on

the wall of the Civic Centre. The bin poses the question 'Will England do well in Russia?' with two slots for people to put their cigarette ends in – one for yes, one for no.

In the last year more than 170 people have been fined or taken to court for discarding rubbish in the borough, with most litter being cigarette butts. Fines are spent on tackling environmental issues.

BUSINESSES in Walsall are reeling from news that Marks & Spencer will close its doors for the last time on August 11.

The move comes despite efforts from council leaders to try to save the store after 84 years in the town centre. Nearly 100 shop staff, many of whom have worked there for decades, face redundancy.

Andy Barber, head of region for the West Midlands at M&S, said: "Proposing to close the store was a difficult decision. Over the past few weeks we've been consulting with our colleagues and, following this rigorous process, the decision has been made to close the store on Saturday, August 11."

The Walsall branch has been a mainstay for the town's shoppers since it opened in Park Street on June 1, 1934. The branch became part of the Saddlers Centre in 1980.

Walsall Council bosses had hoped to persuade M&S bosses to stay.

Change

The authority took out a £13.8 million loan to buy the Saddlers Centre last year but the leadership has now changed. New council leader Mike Bird had opposed the decision by the previous Labour administration to buy the centre.

Reacting to the latest news, he said: "We have got a meeting with them on June 22. I have emailed them and said I hope, even at this late stage, we might be able to change their mind. Marks & Spencer is an institution in Walsall, it has been here for 85 years this year."

The closure was first proposed a month ago, as part of a nationwide cull by the department store chain.

Marks & Spencer says it will close more than 100 stores by 2022 as it accelerates a transformation programme that will see thousands of jobs put at risk.

The closures will affect its clothing and home stores, which have under-performed for several years.

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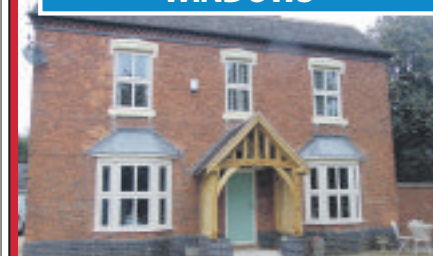
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Other bus operators would lose

IN response to Lee Murphy ("We need variety of operators", June 7) the problem with inviting other private operators to run bus routes with hardly any passengers on them would also result in those operators making unsustainable losses.

If Arriva cannot make those routes pay, then a mix of other operators certainly couldn't, because they would not have the benefits of economic scale.

Staffordshire County Council must share some of the blame for what has happened, because they blatantly refused to help fund any of those loss-making routes. The only other possible way to provide a reliable bus service for all is to take it into public ownership.

MR PAUL WITTON
Cannock

How marriage has changed over the years

IT is 100 years since women got the vote but true independence gained momentum in the Sixties.

Fifty years ago, I looked to the in-laws for a matrimonial model. The mother-in-law, a fine woman, fed and reared seven. She cooked, laundered, sewed and knitted. She cosseted the father-in-law; it was her duty.

She received her housekeeping never seeing his pay packet. She delivered his

meals to his armchair; If he required salt or sauce, she obliged. When he went for his pint, she brushed him down and waved him on his way.

He never lifted a paintbrush, the girls decorated around him. What an admirable arrangement, and the bonus – the girls were reared to it.

My intended was quite shy although her brother hinted she was tough and played rough. After a couple of weeks

of marriage, I handed over my pay packet. A couple of weeks later, I was painting the ceilings.

The father-in-law, on hearing the shocking news, took to his bed.

Fifty great years later, it was all about compromise. She gets her dinner tray but that's it! I don't fetch the condiments.

KEVAN GEE
Rugeley

Please do not bypass policing for the people

STAFFORDSHIRE Police has lost 25 per cent of its police due to cuts. There is a predictable rise in crime and this county does not appear to be the best place to reside.

The police occasionally ask the public for help but I cannot see how this can be reciprocated as those officers that are left have an increased population to deal with.

From my home I have seen a sporadic police car passing through the village but nothing more. We are not the largest of counties but we do warrant the same resources as other forces. Please do not bypass policing for the people.

Those remaining police officers that serve us and the people in this county deserve better.

HENRY MAJ
Armitage

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Voting age should be at least 21

POLITICS is sadly not a natural choice for the young, who in my experience are far more interested in the latest handheld device or PlayStation game (Chronicle, June 14).

What is increasingly normal is for left-wing politicians to insist politically clueless children – yes, I said 'children' rather than 'little adults' – who are heavily influenced by their parents should be allowed to vote.

This has a lot more to do with political expediency than extending choice to the politically naive. The voting age in my opinion should be raised to a minimum of 21 or even 25. Perhaps by that age the young may have gained a little life experience and common sense.

ANDREW WILLIAMS
Rugeley

Owners shouldn't have pets if they can't look after them

A WOMAN in Great Wyrley left her poor cat, outside all the time; never had it in.

A neighbour got it and took it to Cat Whiskers, a cat rescue centre, who took it to the vets and the vet had to put it to sleep as it had got a tumour in its eye and ears, and broken teeth.

It should have been taken to the vets months ago. The RSPCA is looking in to it. Why do people have animals if they can't look after them properly?

J COOPER
Great Wyrley

Take steps to stop noisy dogs

RE R Jordan's letter ("Who will help us to escape this racket?", June 14) speaking to the individual with the dogs is your first step. If you cannot resolve the issue contact your council and ask for the Noise Abatement Officer but landlords also have responsibility for their tenants' behaviour.

MR A ALLPORT
Huntington

What's the point then, Nigel?

I HEARD Nigel Farage say on the radio 'I never promised it would be a huge success . . . I never said it would be a beneficial thing to leave and everyone would be better off'. So what's the point? Let's stop it now.

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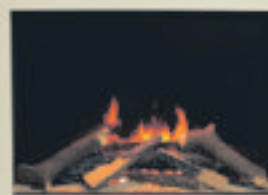
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Potholes problem gives bosses a sinking feeling

Abseil raises £6k for charity



Emma Tromans was one of the abseilers Picture by DuffyLtd

THIRTY ONE people raised more than £6,000 for Parkinson's UK after abseiling 200ft down a hotel.

Among the daredevils was Emma Tromans from Lichfield, who took part in the stunt in memory of her father, who died in 2016 after living with Parkinson's for nine years.

She said: "I had a truly fantastic day. I felt very emotional on the way down thinking about my dad,

but I know how happy and proud he would be." The event at the Holiday Inn Express in Snow Hill, Birmingham, was sponsored by Birmingham-based Recycling Management Ltd, with director Yvonne Hawkeswood joining with staff members and her family to take part.

Further details about fundraising can be found at www.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraising

COUNCIL bosses admit they are struggling to keep up with the number of potholes that need repairing across Staffordshire.

The county council's transport chief said budget cuts meant the authority was facing a challenge to maintain crumbling roads.

A £5 million investment in the county's roads was announced earlier this year but will only go 'some way' to solving the pothole problem.

Councillor Helen Fisher, cabinet member for highways and transport, said budget cuts meant bosses have had to make difficult decisions on where money is spent.

Freezing conditions during the winter also took its toll on the roads, she said.

Councillor Fisher said: "Good roads are important for the council, for communities and for businesses, not just for getting from A to B safely, but for supporting economic growth and better access to jobs, education and learning."

Impact

"However, maintaining and investing in our huge 6,000-kilometre road network, at a time of enormous pressure on council budgets, remains an issue."

"The particularly cold winter and bouts of snow also have an impact, both in terms of increasing the cost of gritting our major roads to keep people on the move, but also the growing repair bill for carriageways damaged by the freezing conditions."

"We are spending more every year on social care, and caring for Staffordshire people young and old, when the income we receive from government is reducing, so we have to strike a careful balance on where we spend taxpayers money."

Drivers have been left infuriated by the number of potholes on Staffordshire's roads.

It was revealed in April that 11,000 would be filled in as part of a major investment in roads.

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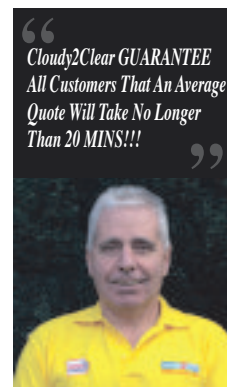
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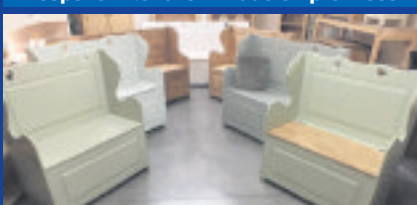
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TWO children got the shock of their lives when their dad unexpectedly returned home from serving in the Army just in time for Father's Day.

Flynn and Imelda Davies-Phillips, from Stafford, did not know when they would see their father Michael again after his tour in the Falklands was extended last year.

But Mr Davies-Phillips, who serves in 7 Regiment of the Royal Logistics Corps, had a special surprise up his sleeve as he turned up on the doorstep unannounced, disguised as a delivery driver.

Flynn, aged 10, and Imelda, six, had been expecting a delivery of food to come to the door - but received something much better than fish and chips.

Mr Davies-Phillips, aged 28, said: "When they finally recognised me it was the best surprise."



The children open the door to find their father standing there

Record job figures but closures loom

A RECORD number of people are in work across Staffordshire, new figures show, despite a looming high street crisis.

The employment rate for the West Midlands is at a record high of 74 per cent with 2.76 million in work in the three months to April - up 51,000 on the previous quarter.

And the numbers claiming unemployment benefits fell again across Staffordshire last month. Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey called it a 'Great British success story.'

But the figures don't take into account losses to the high street such as Toys 'R' Us, Mothercare, Carpetright and Maplin. However, Staffordshire County Council's economic growth



Councillor Mark Winnington

leader Councillor Mark Winnington said milestones in economic growth development projects signalled more business investment.

He said: "It is pleasing to see such

great progress at our key development sites because ultimately this will lead to more employment opportunities for Staffordshire."

Latest figures show 1.3 per cent of the local working age population claiming out of work benefits, lower than both regional (2.8 per cent) and national (2.1 per cent) averages.

Across the county claimant numbers were down 35 to 7,080 (1.2 per cent). Cannock Chase was down 15 at 915 (1.5 per cent). Lichfield 745 (1.2 per cent), Stafford 840 (one per cent) and South Staffordshire 940 (1.4 per cent) each saw a drop of 10 claimants.

Employment nationally increased by 146,000 to 32.39 million, the highest since records began in 1971, giving a record rate of 75.6 per cent. The national jobless rate is 4.2 per cent.

Troubled plant hits profits

PROFITS at engineering group Castings have been dragged down by problems at its machining arm, the company has announced.

CNC Speedwell, which is across the Lichfield Road opposite Castings' main foundry site in Brownhills, slumped to a £3.95 million loss as it pulled out of some projects and racked up a £1.2m bill for transport costs to meet deadlines.

Despite a stronger year for Castings' foundries at Brownhills and the William Lee site in Derbyshire, the group's pre-tax profits dropped to £12.1m from £15.9m a year ago.

Brian Cooke, chairman of the group, which employs 400 people, said the troubled CNC business had been brought back under control.

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Young audiences set for monster fun



Monstersaurus follows young inventor Monty as he creates a world of wacky inventions and incredible monsters

THERE will be monster-ously good fun roaring its way to the Lichfield Garrick next weekend with Monstersaurus, a stage adaptation of the popular children's book.

This new production, from the creators of Aliens Love Underpants, follows young inventor Monty as he creates a world of wacky inventions and incredible monsters. But now he has made them how is he going to get rid of them?

Suitable for those aged three and above and with a running time of 50 minutes, Monstersaurus will be at the Lichfield Garrick on Saturday, June 30 at 11.30am and 2pm. Tickets are £14 and £12 (child) and can be booked via the box office on 01543 412121 or at www.lichfieldgarrick.com

Meanwhile, Lichfield actress is returning home to present a one-woman show that 'explores the right to be a feminist'. Katie Arnstein's performance of Bicycles and Fish will be on in the Lichfield Garrick's Studio Theatre tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday 23 June at 7.45pm.

Judge: Jail smuggling mother 'is decent'

A JUDGE described a pregnant mother who smuggled heroin into a prison as a 'decent woman' – before jailing her.

Natalie Severn admitted taking 6.92 grams of the drug into Oakwood Prison in Featherstone. The 31-year-old was jailed for 20 months but last week had her sentence cut to 15 months on appeal.

She gave the drugs, which had a street value of at least £280, to her boyfriend, who was in custody at the prison, in June last year.

Appearing at Stafford Crown Court in April, Severn, of Cromwell Street, Coventry, was put behind bars by Judge John Gosling, who described her as a 'decent woman', but said she had committed 'a really serious crime'.

The court heard how a CCTV operator noticed her partner remove an object from her clothing and then put it down his trousers while she was visiting him.

Severn told police she had been contacted by an unknown man and told her partner was in debt and asked to take the package into the prison. She said she

By Alex Ross

feared for her and for her boyfriend's safety if she did not comply. Last week, at London's Appeal Court, lawyers for Severn argued that her punishment was far too harsh and should have been suspended.

They pointed to her previous good character, being pregnant with a baby due in October and having a three-year-old child, but Sir Brian Leveson, sitting with two other judges, said taking drugs into prison is 'an offence of exceptional gravity' meriting immediate imprisonment.

However, he added: "Although an immediate custodial sentence was inevitable, it need not have been as long as 20 months."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

McDonald's given digital makeover

MCDONALD'S in Hemlock Way, Cannock, has had a 'major digital makeover' following investment from franchisee David Knight.

To improve the speed and ease of ordering, customers have the option to use one of the restaurant's self-order kiosks allowing them to personalise their meals.

Sale will boost church's funds

STRAWBERRY teas and homemade cakes will be on sale at Salem Methodist Church in Cheslyn Hay during a table top sale on Saturday.

It follows a successful table top sale held in April. Admission to Saturday's event, which runs from 3pm until 6pm, is free and proceeds will go to the church development fund.

Takeover leads to beer firm growth

JAMES Clay, the craft and specialist beer distributor, is to expand its reach in the region following the acquisition of regional distributor Beer Direct.

The deal sees James Clay assume all Stoke-based Beer Direct operations. The integration of the two firms will increase the availability of some of the world's most popular beers.

Reminder on licences

The Environment Agency is reminding anglers that they must have a valid licence, following the end of the three-month close season last week. To buy a licence go to www.gov.uk/fishing-licences

Royal visit marks 25th anniversary



Princess Alexandra accepts a bouquet of flowers during her visit to Stafford

A charity celebrating 25 years of supporting people with life limiting illnesses marked the anniversary with a royal visit.

Princess Alexandra, first cousin to the Queen, visited staff, volunteers, patients and supporters at Katharine House Hospice in Stafford last week (June 13) to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the day therapy unit. The hospice opened its Day Unit in

1993 after years of fundraising and dedication from community groups and volunteers.

Several of its original volunteers still give their time to support the charity, and care services are supported by volunteers who transport patients to and from the hospice from their own homes.

Last year alone the hospice provided free care for 1,100 patients and their families.

Dickie's pride at honour

THE chief executive of Staffordshire Women's Aid has spoken of her pride at being awarded an MBE.

Dickie James received the prestigious award in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

She said the award was a tribute to everyone working 'tirelessly' for the Stafford-based charity and similar organisations across the country.

"I am delighted and honoured to have received this," she said. "But this award is for being part of a women's aid movement

both in Staffordshire and nationally that has put domestic violence on the mainstream agenda.

"Nobody would be talking about it if had not been for that movement.

"This honour is really a tribute to the many people and volunteers working tirelessly for women's aid in Staffordshire and across the country. I hope the award will continue to highlight the devastating impact domestic violence has on the lives of the victims and their families."

She was awarded her MBE for her work with victims of domestic violence.



Dickie James

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Fireworks boss gets 10 years over fatal blaze

AN 'ARROGANT' boss whose fireworks factory was jammed packed with explosives has started a 10-year prison sentence.

Richard Pearson looked on emotionless as he was locked up for causing the deaths of colleague Simon Hillier, aged 41, and customer Stewart Staples, 57.

The victims died when a deadly inferno rose from Pearson's Stafford-based warehouse, trapping the two Hednesford men inside the Baswich outlet.

Speaking following the sentence, Simon's father Tom Hillier said the family had been left 'devastated' by the tragedy which struck four years ago.

He added: "He will always be in our hearts, in our thoughts."

"Simon was a perfect son, and a great dad, a best friend to everybody. I had the privilege of being his father."

Flames

Pearson, 44, denied two counts of manslaughter by gross negligence but jurors took less than four hours to unanimously convict him last month.

Firefighters were unable to get inside Pearson's SP Plastics unit at the Tilcon Avenue industrial estate when the flames took hold of the building on October 30, 2014.

Both victims died from smoke inhalation but Pearson, of Holyrood Close, Stafford, managed to flee from the fiercely burning fire and fireworks explosion.

Pearson suffered 54 per cent burns to his body and was given less than 50 per cent chance of survival by medics four hours after the fire.

Mr Staples's wife Angela told Stafford Crown Court she had been a



Richard Pearson – blamed others



Stewart Staples – victim



Simon Hillier – victim

devout Christian but her husband's death had led to a 'complete loss of faith'.

She added: "Stewart's life was cut short by the lack of duty of care by Richard Pearson. We could never say our goodbyes properly and this caused us great grief and pain."

Sentencing last Wednesday, Judge Michael Chambers QC said the trag-

edy was 'truly horrific' and claimed it was 'unreasonable' for Pearson to blame others for the blaze.

The judge added: "Despite being very knowledgeable about fireworks and the risks they pose, motivated by financial profit, you have demonstrated an arrogant recklessness for the safety of others in the storage and handling of dangerous fireworks."

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£25,000 aid for self-help groups



Sense of community – the We Love Lichfield Summer Give-Away at The George Hotel in Lichfield

GRANTS worth a total of £25,000 were handed out to local self-help groups at the We Love Lichfield Summer Give-Away. Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant, who was at the event, said: "The range of these groups in the district is enormous and demonstrates the sense of community throughout the area. As well as Lichfield it includes Burntwood and the other towns and villages within the Lichfield district. The variety of groups getting funding include a history group in Fradley, a grandparents group in Burntwood supporting carers, a centre with a huge garden for use by Scouting and other organisations near Whittington. "I am keen to visit many of them and lend my support." The grants are awarded twice a year.

Co-op in food waste move

AN ambitious proposal that will see unsold food redirected to help hundreds of local charities is being rolled out.

Following the completion of a successful pilot, Central England Co-op has teamed up with FareShare East Midlands to announce plans that will see all of its food stores across Staffordshire included in proposals to help good causes and reduce waste.

The project will see best before food items and non-food goods that cannot be sold collected by colleagues from the society's food distribution centre, in Leicester, then delivered to FareShare to send out to more than 250 local charities across the Midlands.

Hannah Gallimore, Central England Co-operative corporate responsibility manager, said: "Food waste is a topic customers and colleagues regularly talk to us about and it is an area that

has always been at the forefront of plans at the society.

"We have been looking for a solution to this issue for many years and are now proud to be able to reveal our plan to tackle food waste in a manner that also has a major impact for our communities and our partners.

"This is why, following the success of our pilot project, we are delighted to be able to announce that we are working with FareShare East Midlands."



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Asda be gold in store for £1m win worker Amanda

"PEOPLE will come into the store and ask if they can rub my arm for good luck."

These are the words of Asda worker and National Lottery winner Amanda Lewis, who won £1 million on a Lucky Dip at the store where she works in Wolverhampton.

Customers will still find her ringing up their shopping at the Molineux Way store – two years on from her big win. She has worked there for 16 years.

Yesterday a limited edition gold National Lottery kiosk, complete with 'Lucky Charm' Amanda's hand prints, was installed there in her honour.

She said: "People ask if I can sell them their tickets because they consider me to be good luck. I splurged a bit before I had a bit of a reality check and I still work here three days a week because my friends are here and I like to stick to everyday life."

The 51-year-old, who moved from Featherstone to Stafford after her win, bought her twins, Charlotte and Ryan, aged 23, both Audi cars.

She also shelled out on a plot of land for her daughter's two horses, paid off her mortgage and bought a home for her father-in-law in Dudley.

She still remembers the moment she won.

She said: "It was a big shock. My colleague, Susan, realised I had won and I did not know what to do. It was so surreal."

"I sat in the car and thought if I should wait to call or if I should call them straight away."

"I ended up calling them, or else I would not be able to concentrate as I drove home."

"My husband was working away and he called me back and asked how



Lottery winner Amanda Lewis from Featherstone, with the golden touch

much I had won. I thought I had won £100,000 but then he asked how many zeroes there were and asked me to sit down when he told me it was actually £1m. I was lost for words.

"I hope someone else gets a bit of luck. I would love someone to tell me they have won."

Colleague Susan Hill, of Oxley, Wolverhampton, has worked alongside Amanda for 10 years.

She said: "It was lovely when we found out she had won. She has been the biggest winner from the tickets that I have checked."

"It could not have happened to a nicer person and she has not changed a bit since. She is good at her job and she enjoys it, so why give it up?"

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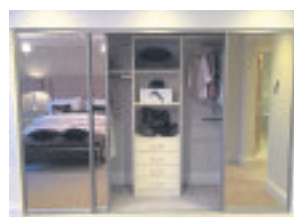


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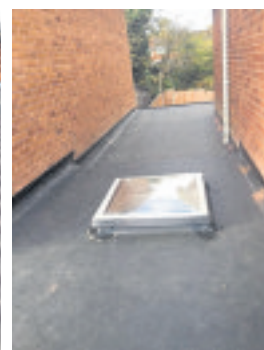
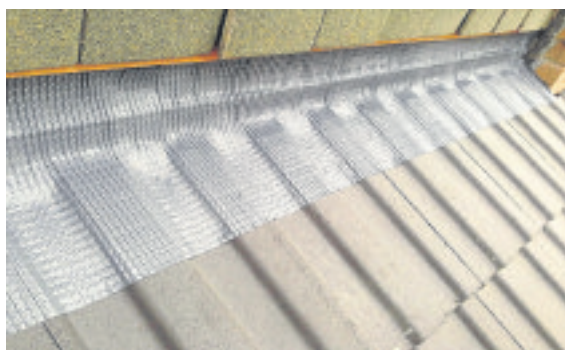


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Bishop joins car wash slavery campaign



The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Dr Michael Ipgrave, and Canon Andrew Stead outside the cathedral. THE Bishop of Lichfield is rolling up his sleeves to raise awareness of a campaign to crack down on the exploitation of workers at car washes.

Working closely with the Clewer Initiative, the Diocese of Lichfield is backing the campaign to tackle modern slavery in hand car washes.

A new Safe Car Wash app has been launched to en-

courage drivers to help identify worker exploitation by collecting information.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Dr Michael Ipgrave, launched the campaign in Lichfield with the cathedral's Canon Precentor, the Rev Canon Andrew Stead. Bishop Michael said: "The evil of modern slavery is coming into sharp focus."

Health group's update

PATIENTS can find out more about the NHS Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) activities during the last 12 months in a new report.

They also find out about the priorities for the year ahead with the publication of the CCG's annual report and accounts for 2017-18.

It also explains how local people can get involved in how healthcare services are planned, delivered and monitored.

Dr Mo Huda, chair of Cannock Chase CCG, said: "I would like to thank our staff and colleagues for

everything they have achieved over the past year. A big change this year is we now have a single leadership team across all six CCGs in Staffordshire.

"This will mean we do things once and not six times, whilst still buying the healthcare services that are needed locally in each area."

Cannock Chase CCG's AGM will be held on Thursday, July 5 from 6.30pm at the Aquarius Ballroom, Hednesford, and is open to all to attend.

To book a place email mlcsu.ccgeventbooking@nhs.net stating 'Cannock Chase CCG AGM' or call 01782 872704. There is also more information on the CCG's website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group prepares for forest walk

CHASE Ramblers' outing this Sunday is an eight-mile moderate walk from Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. Walkers should meet as usual at Hednesford railway station car park, in Anglesey Street, Hednesford, for a 9am prompt departure. For further details contact Dev on 07772 581457. New walkers are welcome.

Grand draw will be a party highlight

A TEA party will be held at St John the Baptist Church, Slitting Mill, on Saturday, July 14 from 2pm to 5pm.

There will be various stalls, with the grand draw at 4pm. Admission is free. Meanwhile, a coffee morning is held every first Wednesday of the month, the next one being Wednesday, July 4 at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Quiz's proceeds to help charity

A CHARITY quiz will be held in the lounge of Mansfield House, Rugeley, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, June 27.

It is open to teams of four but anyone wanting to join in but does not have a team is welcome to attend to 'make up the numbers'. All proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer Support, helping patients living with cancer.

Off-road jobs targeted

OFF-ROAD bikers are being targeted by police in a crackdown on anti-social behaviour. The operation in Norton Canes follows concerns raised by residents. The bikers have been seen riding on paths where children play.

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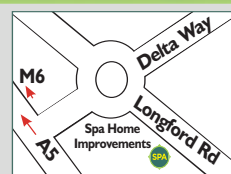
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Care Plus is a leading provider of housing, care and support services in South Staffordshire and Shropshire. As a not-for-profit organisation, we do things a bit differently. It's our aim to help older people and those with disabilities or health conditions to live independent and fulfilling lives.

Managing buildings on behalf of South Staffordshire Housing Association, we operate 34 retirement living developments in towns and villages throughout Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Each scheme provides self-contained apartments or bungalows. There is a strong sense of community, too, with social activities centring on the shared lounge and gardens.

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If you want to continue to live independently but would like an easy-to-manage home and some extra reassurance, Retirement Living could be the right choice. Help is just a call away if there is an emergency and you know your home is well maintained, safe and secure.

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Right: Pencric, named Midlands Development of the Year and Best Care Complex when it opened in 2014



Retirement living

Our retirement living properties (previously known as Sheltered Housing) offer a range of options from studio/one bedroom apartments to bungalows. Developments are in the heart of local towns and villages.



Left: Coven Court, in Coven, just one of the locations where apartments are available to rent.

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A peek into hedgerows for wildlife

City of Lichfield Probud

THE new chairman, Robin Wainwright, welcomed the speaker, Nick Martin, for the June meeting.

His presentation 'Furry Fables' dealt with the topic of British mammals and their relationship to each other and to the human mammals.

The talk was illustrated with brilliant photographs of the furry friends and he punctuated it with fascinating tales of their lives, and their interdependence, mostly in the hedgerows.

Nick kept members interested with his lively tales: rabbits introduced by the Romans and then again by the Normans, the prehensile tale of the harvest mouse, the pine marten as a control for grey squirrels and many other examples.

What was especially sad was the decline of the hedgehog, partly as a result of the way we enclose our gardens.

Nick has an enthusiastic delivery and maintained everyone's interest throughout.

The club's next meeting is on Tuesday, July 3, when the guest speaker will be Hannah Malloy talking about detection dogs.

The club meet at St Matthew's Sports and Social Club in Burntwood and are always looking to welcome new members who are retired professionals or businessmen.

Anyone interested can call Ken Marshall on 01543 686965 or just turn up and introduce themselves.

Members show the way on marshal duty



Soroptimists Maggie Shore, Jill Gooch, Carole Holdcroft & Olivia Lyons at Chasewater

CANNOCK Soroptimists again volunteered at the annual Staffordshire Ironman 70.3 race and this year were involved in packing the bags given to all competitors and to those who marshal on the day.

Club president June Bould and Soroptimist Carole Holdcroft spent a day bag packing; they worked hard but had a fun day and learned a lot about some of the work that goes on behind the scenes to prepare for an international event such as this.

Early in the Sunday morning, four members of Cannock Soroptimists - Carole Holdcroft, Jill Gooch, Maggie Shore and Olivia Lyons - were in position near to Chasewater to marshal the first part of the bike ride section of the race.

Speaker tells of walled garden

THE meeting opened with the singing of Jerusalem then the minutes of the last meeting read and accepted.

Members caught up on the county news and the club's regular activities, and were also informed about the new GDPR.

Speaker for the evening

Burntwood WI

was Annamarie Stone, her story of living and working at the walled garden at Woodhouse Farm in Fishwick being inspirational.

It was a daunting task to return the farm to what it

SI Cannock & District

tion of the race. All of the marshals thought it was a great experience being part of such an event.

The next club meeting at the Barns, Huntington, will be at 7pm on Tuesday, July 10th when the speaker will be Pamela Wade, whose topic is Life in a Hospital Schoolroom.

Anyone wishing to attend can email si.cannock@outlook.co.uk or call 07971 494510. The evening costs £14 and begins with a two-course meal.

is now. Members had been asked to decorate a dolly peg, the theme being 'Inspirational Woman'.

The display generated lots of discussion and amusement. After tea and cake Ron closed the meeting with her very amusing Thought for the Month.

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moments that are often hidden from view as we go about how busy lives.

"My photography is not a reflection of perfection, there are others out there far better than me. Instead, I try to show what I see as I see it, and to encourage others to do the same," says the 52-year-old self-taught amateur photographer.

Young anglers to compete

A NATIONAL competition aimed at attracting a new generation of anglers onto the nation's canals is coming to the region this autumn.

The National Junior & Youth Canal Championship, sponsored for the first time by Angling Direct, is organised by the Canal & River Trust, Angling Trust and the Izaak Walton (Stafford) Anglers Association.

The competition aims to show young anglers how prolific the nation's canals can be while giving them the chance to show off their skills alongside other like-minded young people to compete to be crowned as a UK champion angler.

This year, for the first time, there are two categories.

The junior event is open to youngsters between the ages of 10 and 15, with 16 to 18 year olds eligible to

compete in the youth championships. Both categories are free to enter with the winners taking home trophies and prizes donated by Angling Direct.

Furthermore, everyone taking part will also receive a prize.

The match is taking place on October 21, on the Shropshire Union Canal at Church Eaton with fishing taking place from midday to 4pm.

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Dozen groups would like to run libraries

£3k powers workshops



Mr Ellis hands over a cheque so youngsters can join in the project

THE spotlight has been shining on a number of youngsters after a £3,000 grant from Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

More than 20 youngsters, aged five to 16, took part in the Access All Areas media project at the Greenwood Studios in Bridgton.

The series of week-long workshops taught IT, teamwork and media skills along with the ability

to learn new music and drama skills for a showcase performance. There was also the chance to try graphic design, music technology, music recording, lighting and stage work.

It's all down to a People Power Funding grant from commissioner Matthew Ellis. He said: "The money has been put to good use to help these youngsters gain a real sense of achievement."

MORE than a dozen groups have expressed interest in taking on one of the next four Staffordshire libraries to be recommended for community management.

At the same time, county-wide consultation has revealed 445 more people willing to volunteer at their local library, to add to the 830 who already do so regularly.

The news is in a report on the future of Staffordshire's library service, which proposes that Eccleshall, Penkridge, Cheadle and Clayton become community-managed libraries.

Stafford's main library is also earmarked for the introduction of self-service technology to extend opening hours – and this option may also be used at Penkridge if it doesn't become a community-managed library.

County councillor Gill Heath said: "We've worked hard with communities in recent years to keep their libraries very much at the heart of local life."

Registered

"And having already seen 22 successfully go through this process we believe the community-managed model provides opportunities to expand on the core service and offer whatever people want – whether it's a medical drop-in centre, hairdressing or baby massage classes."

"The self-service technology pilot being considered for up to two libraries would allow registered users access to the building outside core staffed hours, but no library would become completely self-service."

Staffordshire has 43 libraries – 22 are community managed or in the process of becoming so, while the remaining 21 are managed directly by the county council.

Under community management agreements, groups take on the management and day-to-day running of the building, while the council remains responsible for agreed utility bills and maintenance costs.

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Two start points for cycle ride

GET on your bike this weekend and join in with a free group cycle ride to Chasewater.

This month's Cycle Ride For All on Sunday is different from the others in the series, as it will give two options to join the ride.

Lichfield cyclists can join in from Beacon Park at 10am to go on a 20-mile ride to Chasewater and back again. Burntwood cyclists can meet up with the group at Burntwood Leisure Centre at 11am to join in a six-mile ride round Chasewater.

Anyone who wants to join the ride should take their bikes to Beacon Park at 10am or Burntwood Leisure Centre at 11am. Under-16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Call 01543 308867 or 01543 411633 for further information.

Welsh folk duo back at club

WELSH folk duo Brenig will be returning to the Ashmore Club, in Meerash Lane, Hammerwich, on Saturday.

The headliners will take to the stage with a collection of original material and some folk classics.

Support comes from John Carver, of The Staffordshire Men, and Burntwood band Redemption Brothers.

Doors open at 7.30pm and admission is £5.

FOCUS ON BURNTWOOD

Fight to save post office is stepped up with 'asset' bid

A FIGHT to save a post office has intensified after council bosses applied for legislation to protect the 'vital' service.

Burntwood is desperate to save its under threat post office at Sankey's Corner after a series of closures in the town left it without a bank. The loss of HSBC and the closure of Barclays meant banking could only be carried out at three post offices.

However, one of these is based in a Bargain Booze, the company that is in administration, one at Swan Island, which is up for sale and the third, at Sankey's Corner, is under threat of being turned into a dentists.

The service has been put on the market by its current owner and in the hope of saving it, Councillor Darren Ennis lodged a bid and deposit to run it himself. But a planning application to change the use of the building into a dental surgery was submitted by another party – raising fears that it could still be under threat.

Now, Burntwood Town Council has submitted an application to turn the latter into an Asset of Community Value (ACV). It is hoped that by being granted ACV status, it would protect the service and allow Councillor Ennis to proceed with his

By Tom Oakley

plan. He said: "The council have put in an application to get it designated as a Application of Community Value – it has been submitted to Lichfield District Council.

"The application is to allow it to be kept the building as it is, which is an asset to the community. There's a couple of things that could happen if granted – the lender could wait it out or accept an offer from myself or someone else."

The news comes as the last bank in Burntwood – Barclays at Sankey's Corner – finally shut its doors earlier this month.

An ACV is land or property of importance to a local community, which is subject to additional protection from development under the Localism Act 2011.



A campaign has been launched to turn the post office into an Asset of Community Value

Council to decide on plans for district

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

1 Hamps Close, Burntwood – single-storey rear extension to form kitchen and dining room.

45 Thorpe Street, Burntwood – demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a three-bedroom detached bungalow with associated works.

6 Hunslet Road, Burntwood – tree works to crown lift two oaks and two field maples. Removal of ivy from oaks and reduce to monolith.

Chase View, Narrow Lane, Colton – two-storey rear extension to form kitchen/dining room and bedrooms (amendment to application 16/01039/FUL) and erection of detached games room.

3 Canterbury Drive, Burntwood – removal of gable end tiles to front and rear of house, installation of thermal insulation and application of render finish.

25 Stockhay Lane, Hammerwich – loft conversion to form one bedroom; demolition of existing garage and subsequent erection of two-storey outbuilding in rear garden to form garage at ground-floor level and office at first-floor level.

1 Foxleigh Meadows, Handsacre – two-storey side and single-storey rear extension to form games room/study, bedrooms and conservatory.



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Former bishop accused of sex assaults will face trial

A FORMER bishop is to face trial over four charges of sexual assault against two women.

Michael Ward, a former serving bishop of The Old Catholic Church, which has its UK headquarters in Rugeley, will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court next month.

Two of the alleged instances of sexual assault against a female took place three years ago in Walsall in September 2015 and a year later in August 2016.

The other two identical charges are based on alleged incidents involving another woman in London in September and November 2017.

Ward denies all four charges. The 71-year-old, of Water Lane, Edmonton, London, had served the autonomous and independent church from 2013 to 2016, UK Archbishop Most Rev John Lycett said.

Rev Lycett added: "As he is not a member of the church anymore it would be unwise to answer any more questions as the police are dealing with this."

The Old Catholic Church's UK base is at The Priory Church of St Thomas, Hawksyard Priory, in Rugeley.

Ward previously appeared at Walsall and Highbury Corner magistrates courts on February 15 and October 5.

He last appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 13, ahead of his trial on July 9.

West Midlands Police confirmed it had charged Ward with two of the alleged sexual assaults, with the other two taking place in London.

A spokesman said: "Unemployed Michael Ward, of Water Lane, Edmonton, was charged by West Midlands Police with two counts of sexual assault on a female."

"The 71-year-old is due to appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court for trial."

Festival full of flavour for fifth year



Centre stage – former Great British Bake Off contestant James Hillery at the festival

THERE were un-brie-lievable scenes as thousands flocked to a market square for the Stafford Cheese, Ale and Food Festival.

Highlights included cooking demonstrations from special guests – including Great British Bake Off star James Hillery.

Hundreds of cheeses and ales were on offer as the festival returned with new organisers Cocker Hoop Creative. Organiser Jon Arrowsmith, managing director at Cocker Hoop Creative, said: "We primarily organise Lichfield Food Festival and what we noticed there is people now aren't afraid to try different foods. These sorts of festivals are great."

Scores of traders lined the streets, including Steve Howard, 54, from Burntwood, who was selling more than 130 cheeses.

Mr Howard, who has been running The Cheese Cavern for 34 years, said: "The festival is fantastic."

Nature site work can continue

A COLLABORATION between a canal group and a supplier to the ceramics industry means the next stage in the creation of a nature reserve and wetlands is set to go ahead.


Stoke-on-Trent firm Potclays is supplying puddle clay for a waterproof lining to the wetlands area being created at Fosseway Heath by the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust (LHCRT).

The trust began work on the nature reserve last year after receiving an £18,500 grant from the Postcode Local Trust, a grant-giving body funded by the People's Postcode Lottery. The restoration of the Heritage Towpath Trail in this area was not possible as the original canal towpath was lost by earlier adverse possession and it was necessary to divert the canal channel and the towpath across a new boardwalk and islands through the new wetlands area.

Trust volunteers are dismantling and rebuilding the supporting brick walls to the original southern towpath to allow the Heritage Towpath Trail to be restored along this length of the Lichfield Canal.

The LHCRT's engineering director Peter Buck said: "The trust tries to use local businesses in the restoration of the Lichfield Canal."

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He'd be so proud: Statue of Sir Jack is unveiled

HUNDREDS came together to celebrate the life of former Wolves owner Sir Jack Hayward, as a statue of him was unveiled outside Molineux.

Fans, friends, former colleagues and players gathered as the bronze sculpture was unveiled on what would have been his 95th birthday.

It depicts Sir Jack's thumbs-up pose from Wolves' play-off final victory in 2003.

Goalscoring legends Steve Bull and John Richards, club captain Danny Bath, former chief executive Jez Moxey and members of that play-off final winning team Paul Butler and Lee Naylor were there, as well as hundreds of fans.

Mr Moxey said: "I'm absolutely thrilled. We've waited a few years to get this right and it's worth it."

Meet

"Jack would be thinking what all the fuss is about, but that's the man he was. But I also think he'd be so proud looking down on this today."

Wolves legend Steve Bull said: "The statue is unbelievable – it is a great testament to Sir Jack."

"The thumbs-up stance, it is facing the city, he loved the city of Wolverhampton, he did lots for charities in the area. Everyone coming out the subway now can give him the thumbs-up back. People will start to meet under the Sir Jack statue."

"He would be looking down on us here and giving us the thumbs-up – he would be very pleased."

Former Wolves players Lee Naylor and Paul Butler were in the team that won promotion to the Premier League in 2003 by beating Sheffield United 3-0



Thumbs-up as the statue of Sir Jack Hayward is unveiled

in the play-off final at Cardiff. Butler, who skippered that team, said: "In Cardiff it was us on the pitch; me, Paul Ince and Dave Jones, we tried to get him out the stand and he wasn't having it. Jez Moxey went over to try and get him out the stand and we finally got him down. Of all the thousands of pictures to put in bronze, they've picked the play-off final. That was the most important part of his life."

Bloxwich-born former left-back Naylor added: "It was a brilliant ceremony. He did all sorts for the young players when I was at the club. He always loved the youth coming through. He was a guy who actually cared."

Long-time companion Patti Bloom said Sir Jack was 'back where he's meant to be', outside his beloved Molineux. She said: "He never really left – all his life he never really left."

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Youngsters perform at the Wyrley Stars Awards Ceremony 2018



Inspectors found that 'staff feel very positively about the school's future and morale is good'

School goes from strength to strength

Great Wyrley High School is celebrating a glowing report after a recent visit by Ofsted inspectors.

Headteacher Lee Taylor said: "The school has undergone an incredible recovery over the past two years and is fully positioned to begin its new life within Windsor Multi-Academy Trust.

"We are very proud of our school and want to thank the pupils, parents, staff and governors for keeping faith with the school during this phase of transformation.

"Teaching, behaviour and indeed the culture of the school is now unrecognisable from the

Commercial feature

time of its last section 5 inspection in April 2016. A recent Ofsted monitoring visit paid homage to the work that has been done to turn the school around."

Ofsted inspectors said in May this year: "Since the previous inspection, the headteacher and senior leaders have ensured that the school has continued to improve.

"They know the school very well. Improvement plans are detailed and clear. Consequently, improvement is evident in all areas of the school including behaviour,

attendance, teaching, pupils' progress and provision for pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities.

"Members of staff appreciate the headteacher's strong and principled leadership. They also value the openness and support of the senior leadership team.

"Leaders now have an accurate view of the quality of teaching across the school. They provide a comprehensive programme of training for teachers and other adults. They have changed the school week to provide a weekly training session for staff. Teachers work

in groups of three to reflect on, and improve, their practice. Staff have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm and teaching has improved as a result."

They went on to note that pupils speak of 'putting the great back into Great Wyrley'.

Lorne Wiggins, Chair of Governors, said: "Both of the inspection monitoring reviews have confirmed the tremendous strides we are continuing to take in ensuring our students' education is the driving focus behind our vision to relentlessly pursue excellence.

"The next chapter in the school's story

unfolds in September and we are excited at the prospect of moving towards an outstanding school with our new trust partners."

The report made particular note of improvements in the school's sixth form. Students told inspectors that they enjoy being in the sixth form and are glad they chose to stay at the school. All who applied to university secured a place at their first choice.

As the school prepares for academisation in September 2018, leaders are well placed to ensure a quality education provision remains in the heart of Great Wyrley.

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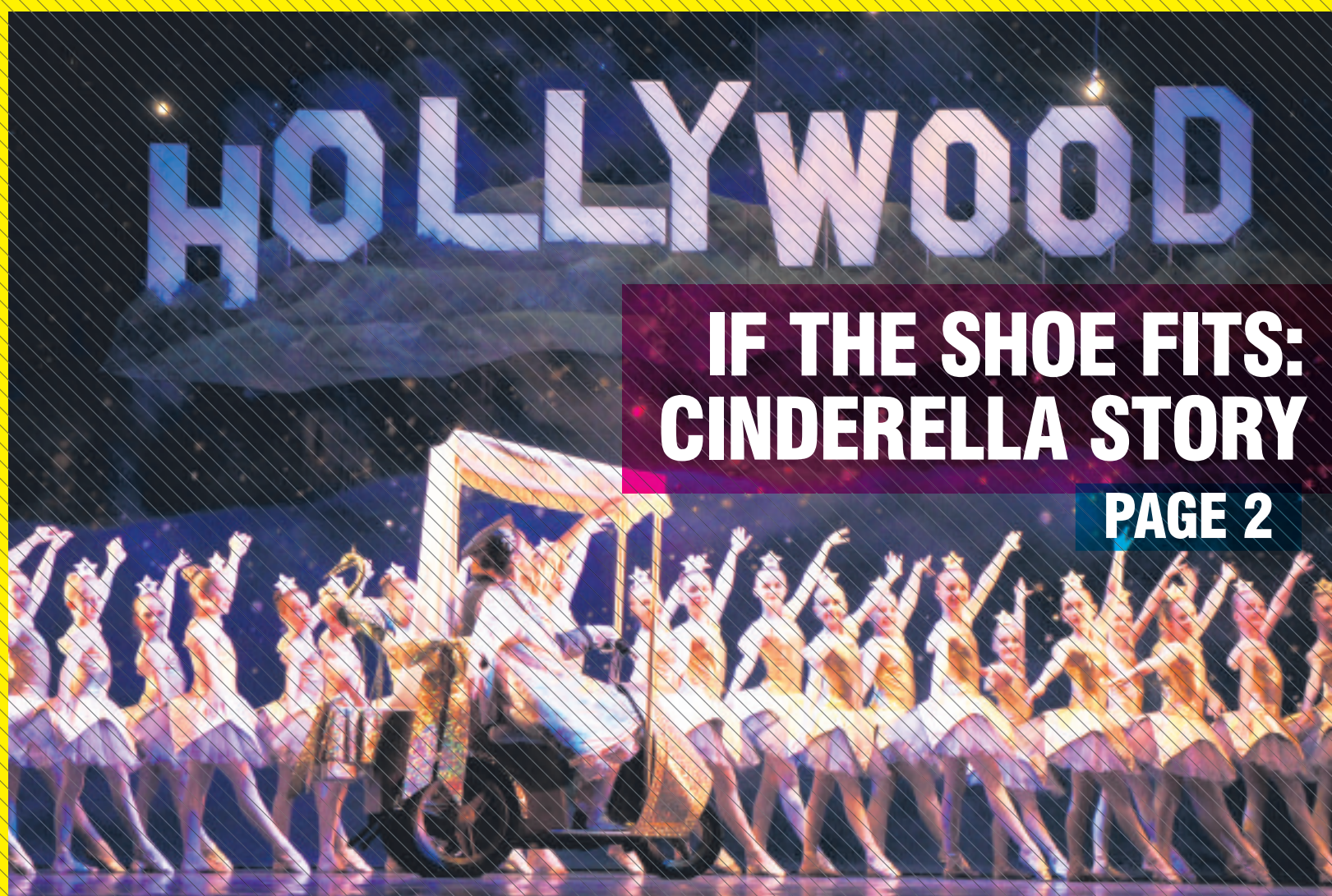
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Dancer Monica will pirouette to the ball

Spanish dancer Monica Tapiador will be starring in English Youth Ballet's new production of Cinderella in Hollywood in Shrewsbury tomorrow and Saturday. She will be leading an impressive cast of international principal dancers and 83 of the region's finest young dancers at Theatre Severn.

Monica was born in Spain and before joining EYB she danced with La Scala Theatre Ballet and English National Ballet.

Set in the glamorous era of 1950s Hollywood movies, the lavish production draws its inspiration from the film star Grace Kelly who met Prince Rainier of Monaco at a press party and later married him.

Cinderella is a seamstress on a film set and the Fairy Godmother is her late mother – a former movie star of the 1930s. Her wicked sisters are Hollywood starlets competing with each other for starring film roles. The Prince meets Cinderella at the press party but at midnight she flees from the scene leaving a sparkly silver pointe-shoe as the only clue to her identity.

The choreography has been created by Director Janet Lewis and her team of international principal artists, who coach the young dancers.

The music combines Shostakovich Jazz Suites and Ballet Suites with memorable melodies from Hollywood films such as Tea for Two, Chinatown and Dancing in the Dark. The stunning new stage designs for the ballet are by Sebastian Petit and the costume designs are by Keith Bish.

We caught up with Monica to find out more about the show and what makes her tick:

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF CINDERELLA THAT YOU WILL BE DANCING DIFFER FROM THE FAIRYTALE?

My Cinderella is very different to the Disney movie. She works in the wardrobe department of a Hollywood film studio in the 1950s. She lost her mother when she was younger so she had to grow up very fast. Her step-sisters aren't ugly – they are wicked Hollywood starlets. Cinderella dreams of becoming a movie star – just like her mother.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF THE ROLE FOR YOU?

It's important not to get into the cliché of playing the artificial or fairytale role. I want my Cinderella to be a real girl that the audience can identify with. Also, the style of the choreography is neo-classical (quite modern ballet) and my body is having to find new and different ways of moving that I'm not used to.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT THE AUDIENCES WILL ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE NEW PRODUCTION?

The audience will love the selection of music in the ballet. We have beautiful orchestral jazz and classical music that the audience are familiar with. It really helps to create the Hollywood atmosphere. There are also many styles of dance – from glamorous show dancing to classical waltzes. I think that Cinderella's motorised buggy that takes her to the press party will be a hit. It is so Hollywood!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT COACHING THE SHROPSHIRE YOUNG DANCERS IN THE CAST?

I have liked seeing the transition they have made since day one of rehearsals. At the beginning, they

Crystal clear – Monica Tapiador brings Hollywood glamour to the fairy tale



were quite unsure and nervous and they have become so much more confident and disciplined as rehearsals have progressed. They are learning how to work as a team and really push themselves.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ANY YOUNG DANCER CONSIDERING A CAREER IN DANCE?

If you can learn to believe in what you do then the audience will also believe in you. I think they should keep their passion even through the difficult times. Keep an eye on the goal that is driving you – even on the days when you don't feel that motivated. It is such an amazing feeling to work in a job you love.

● Cinderella in Hollywood will be presented tomorrow and Saturday at Theatre Severn. For tickets contact the box office on 01743 281281 or visit www.theatresevern.co.uk

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

*I want my
Cinderella to be
a real girl that
the audience can
identify with*

BRB's Romeo and Juliet



Passion and tragedy

THE timeless drama and storytelling of Shakespeare's plays have inspired generations of theatre-goers and artists across the globe for hundreds of years.

This summer Birmingham Royal Ballet presents an spectacular adaptation of his tale of star-crossed lovers, Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet. Céline Gittens as Juliet and Brandon Lawrence as Romeo are pictured above.

William Shakespeare's tragic and passionate narrative comes to life in this epic production, featuring stunning design by Paul Andrews which recreates the grandeur of Verona. A cast of more than 50 dancers execute Macmillan's acclaimed choreography, from the balcony scene's romantic pas de deux to large-

scale sword fight scenes and the heart-breaking climax. The spectacle is accompanied by Prokofiev's instantly recognisable score, played live at every performance by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

David Bintley, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, said: "Romeo and Juliet is the most important full-length ballet of the 20th century. It broke the mould of classical ballets because everything within the ballet supports the narrative. The stand-out elements are the pas de deux, particularly the balcony scene. As a narrative piece of dance making, I would say this is probably the greatest one ever made."

It is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from June 26 to 30. Tickets from birminghamhippodrome.com or by calling 0844 338 5000.

Jobson heads Into The Valley again



ENDURING punk rockers Skids will be celebrating more than 40 years with a headline show at Bilston's Robin 2 next week.

Skids were formed in 1977 in their home town of Dunfermline, Scotland, by Richard Jobson (pictured), Stuart Adamson, Bill Simpson and Tom Kellichan. After releasing an independent single the band were championed by influential Radio 1 DJ John Peel, supported The Clash and then were signed to Virgin Records in 1978.

Their first singles were Sweet Surburbia, The Saints are Coming

and Into the Valley. The latter reached the UK top ten becoming the band's enduring anthem.

Their debut album Scared to Dance came out in 1979 and was followed by two chart singles Masquerade and Working for the Yankee Dollar, both from second album Days in Europa. That album also featured Rusty Egan of Visage after the departure of Kellichan. The band released two more albums before splitting in 1982. Adamson went on to have worldwide success with his new band Big Country but took his own life in Hawaii in 2001.

The band briefly resumed a decade ago and now the 40th

anniversary tour, at the Robin on June 28, features Jobson and Simpson with Mike Baillie, Bruce Watson and Jamie Watson.

Jobson said: "The Skids were not just another punk band. We were creatively ambitious. Most importantly we loved playing live. As I tried to find a way to celebrate the band's 40th anniversary, the answers ended up being very simple – just do it. Play the songs like it might be the last time. Give it everything. Then there's the new stuff. It's the beginning of something new rather than the end of something old."

Metal memories as fans ask Tony

Legendary Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi is returning to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday to talk about his life and career. Black Sabbath have sold in excess of 100 million albums and Birmingham born and raised Tony is synonymous with heavy rock and his innovative riffs are acknowledged to be the beginning of what became heavy metal. Tony will be answering questions and fans can send them by tweeting #askiommi2018 or emailing marketing@thsh.co.uk.



Lakeside Proms for rock and movie magic

Music will drift across the lake at the NEC this summer as two big nights of entertainment take place across the first weekend in August. Lakeside Proms is the setting for an outdoor summer's evening with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. August 4 will see a night of symphonic rock, while the following evening goes Hollywood with the movie music of John Williams.

The first evening will feature a spectacular light show to accompany the iconic music of Queen, David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and many more, followed by a firework display. On August 5 the orchestra celebrates film composer Williams with such blockbuster themes as those from the Harry Potter and Indiana Jones movies, ET, Star Wars and Jurassic Park. Tickets available on 0844 338 8000.

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CHOICE



Chelsea Halfpenny

Casualty (BBC1, 8.20pm)
Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kiegan, and a shocking confession from Ethan leaves her feeling even more alone. Connie returns and immediately notices that someone has killed her goldfish and replaced it. With Elle's encouragement, Connie has some fun waiting for the culprits to reveal themselves and puts the pressure on. Elsewhere, Robyn asks for more overtime due to her parking fines.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nagella. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Belgium v Tunisia (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.20** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.05** Film: Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **6.45** **Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death.** The duo open their own bakery and business is soon booming – not least because their potential rivals have all been killed by a mysterious assassin. (R) **7.15** BBC News. **7.25** Regional Programme. **7.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alastair Stewart, Charlene White, Emily Maitlis, Nick Robinson, Piers Morgan, Susanna Reid, Raghoe Omar and Cathy Newman compete in a news-themed edition of the quiz. (R) **8.20** **Casualty.** Struggling to keep a lid on her emotions following her night with Eddie, Alicia pushes Ethan away. She then has to deal with Leigh-Anne, who arrives in the ED with her son Kiegan. **9.10** **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes' famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host the Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Joining in the fun this time around are guests Jerry Springer, Ray Mears and Boy George, who has brought along his mother, Dinah O'Dowd. Ray gives Dermot and Buster a crash course in survival skills, while Years & Years perform at Foley's. Last in the series. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update. **10.30** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Jason Mohammad presents action from the day's fixtures – Germany v Sweden in Sochi, South Korea v Mexico in Rostov-on-Don and Belgium v Tunisia in Moscow. **11.20** MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Germany v Sweden. A chance to see the second Group F encounter for both sides. Commentary by Jonathan Pearce. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Denigiers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.00** Natural Born Winners. (R) **10.00** Earth: One Amazing Day. (2017) **11.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **1.00** Tennis: Queen's. The Fever-Tree Championships. **5.00** Choose the Right Puppy for You. (R) **6.00** **Coastal Path.** Paul Rose sets off on the walk of a lifetime as he covers 630 miles of the South West Coast Path, discovering wildlife, traditions and adventure along the way. (R) **6.30** **Great Exhibition of the North.** Coverage of the festival, which takes place in Newcastle and Gateshead. **7.00** **The River Wye with Will Millard.** The writer and angler sets out on the final leg of his journey down the Wye, with the river flowing through an area of outstanding natural beauty as it meanders towards the sea. Last in the series. **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Godfrey learns his cottage is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new airstrip. Comedy, starring Arnold Ridley. (R) **8.00** **The Super Squirrels.** The extraordinary abilities of the squirrel family are examined, putting their problem-solving to the test on a specially designed assault course. (R) **9.00** **Live International Rugby League.** New Zealand v England (Kick-off 9.10pm). Coverage of the match, which takes place at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. This match will be England's first game on US soil since October 2000, when they took on the USA in Orlando, Florida. The Kiwis will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing World Cup last year when, despite being finalists in the three previous editions, they were eliminated in the quarter-finals. England will be hoping to continue their recent encouraging form, having reached the World Cup final in 2017, eventually losing 6-0 to Australia. **11.30** Film: Little Voice. (1998) **1.00** Film: Wales: Man of Hope. (2013) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.20** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of day five, including first two races of the day at 2.30 and 3.05. **3.25** FIFA World Cup 2018. South Korea v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.20** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.30** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Germany v Sweden (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the second Group F encounter for both sides, which comes from Fisht Stadium in Sochi, Russia. This is the first meeting between these countries at the World Cup finals since their last-16 fixture in Munich during the 2006 tournament. The host nation secured a comfortable 2-0 victory, with both goals coming from striker Lukas Podolski. That match would prove to be Sweden's last at the World Cup until their opening group fixture with South Korea last Monday, while Jurgen Klinsmann's side – with current boss Joachim Loew serving as assistant manager – would go out at the semi-final stage to eventual winners Italy. With commentary by Sam Matherface and Lee Dixon, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane, Patrice Evra and Henrik Larsson. **9.15** ITV News: Weather. **9.30** **Film: Creed.** (2015) Premiere. The son of a heavyweight boxer who died in the ring seeks to follow in the footsteps of the father he never knew. He goes in search of his father's old rival-turned-best friend Rocky Balboa, who agrees to train the young fighter for a shot at the title – but the ageing champ is facing challenges of his own. Boxing drama, starring Michael B Jordan, with Sylvester Stallone reprising his role from the Rocky movies. **12.05** Play to the Whistle. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The King of Queens. (R) **6.25** The King of Queens. (R) **6.50** The King of Queens. (R) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.45** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **6.00** Channel 4 News. **6.30** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position ahead of the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. **8.10** **Live International Rugby Union.** Argentina v Scotland (Kick-off 8.40pm). Coverage of the Test match, which takes place at the Estadio Centenario in Resistencia. In 2017/18, Gregor Townsend's team have beaten Australia, England and France, so will be looking to wrap up a fine season with their fourth straight win against the Pumas, having also visited Canada and the USA in the last two weeks. Presented by Lee McKenzie, with analysis from John Barclay and Ugo Mone, and commentary by Eddie Butler and Rory Lawson. **11.00** Film: Dumb and Dumber To. (2014) The dim-witted friends are reunited after 20 years, and set off on a road trip to find Harry's estranged daughter. Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **1.05** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a Tuscan-style hotel in New Mexico. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Luke is back on the wagon, leaving Ollie to rebel against the rules, while Sienna is planning to move, but Nico has another idea in mind. (R) **4.05** My Kitchen Rules. The two strongest teams in Group B compete in the second Italian-themed semi-final, with dishes including fig-stuffed pork and sour sauce, duck ragu with pappardelle pasta. (R) **5.00** Wedding Town. Leading hotelier Alasdair Houston plans to build a love wall in Gretna Green. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Access. **10.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **1.35** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.35** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **3.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **4.35** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **5.30** News Weekend. **5.35** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. **6.30** **The Wonderful World of Puppies.** A showdog gives birth to four puppies, and the owners assess their potential for following in their mother's footsteps. The two smallest members of a litter of Mexican hairless hounds struggle to cope with being cooped up in their Peterborough home, a cockapoo tries to befriend a new housemate, and a rescue collie has a first encounter with sheep. **7.30** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts a special episode in which a mother and her son both go looking for love. Emile has to choose between a model, a restaurant host and a Cambridge woman who does not like Mummy's boys, before his mother Belinda sizes up an HGV driver, a former holiday rep, and a third candidate from Northern Ireland. Plus, a chance to catch up with last week's winners, which this week features a shocking revelation. **8.30** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) The dizzy blonde heroine graduates as a qualified lawyer and heads straight for Washington, DC determined to persuade Congress to put a stop to the testing of cosmetics on animals – and swiftly proves her mettle in fighting adversity as well as red tape. Comedy sequel, starring Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field, Bob Newhart, Bruce McGill and Regina King. **9.30** 5 News Update. **9.35** **Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde.** (2003) Concluded. **10.20** **Live Boxing.** Josh Taylor v Viktor Postol. Coverage of the bout for the WBC Silver Super Lightweight title, which takes place at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow. **12.00** Cricket on 5. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R) **4.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
8.00 Simon King's Shetland Adventure
9.00 Hidden **10.00** The League of Gentlemen **11.00** Frank Skinner on George Formby **12.00** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.00** Unsung Heroines: Danielle de Niese on the Lost World of Female Composers **2.00** Timeshift: The Smoking Years **3.00** Simon King's Shetland Adventure **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.45 Catchphrase **12.30** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.55** Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004) **2.55** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.00** Film: Casper (1995) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: Casper (1995) **6.55** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** Film: Sex and the City 2 (2010) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** Film: Sex and the City 2 (2010) **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
2.50 Midsomer Murders **4.50** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) **7.00** Maigret **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
3.20 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Further coverage of day five of the prestigious festival. **6.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **7.00** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **9.10** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Windtalkers (2002) **11.50** Film: Scarface (1983) **12.10** FYI Daily **1.15** Film: Scarface (1983) **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother
Film4
11.00 Crack in the World (1965) **1.00** Romancing the Stone (1984) **3.10** Shark Tale (2004) **4.55** Rio 2 (2014) **6.55** Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.45** Assault on Precinct 13 (1976) **12.30** Carnage Park (2016) **2.10** Excision (2012) **3.50** Close

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CHOICE



Gareth Southgate

MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018 (BBC1, 12.10pm)
England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of both sides' second Group G match, taking place at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Gareth Southgate's men will be looking to make it out of the group stages of the World Cup for the first time since 2010 after their poor performance at the tournament four years ago. The Three Lions drew one and lost two fixtures in 2014, failing to win a game in a group that also featured Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica. Recently announced captain Harry Kane will lead his side out in his first-ever World Cup and will be expected to provide the goals that England have desperately needed in the group stages in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. England v Panama (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.30** MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Japan v Senegal (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.10** **A Question of Sport.** Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell. (R) **6.40** **BBC News.** **6.50** **Regional Programme.** **7.00** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Steve Brown present from West Sussex, where they meet people who pay to spend their holidays staying in a church. Plus, a plan to reduce food waste and a report on the importance of beetles in pollinating plants. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, where items brought to be valued include a trunk that has travelled the world, a Japanese jar found in a water tank, a chair with a moving story, a Russian brooch that requires a secret code to be unlocked, and a locket that proves that not everyone has heard of the Beatles. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross makes his maiden speech in Parliament, and is reunited with an older Geoffrey Charles. While her husband is in London, Demelza has to deal with the fall-out from a failing mine and a broken-hearted Drake. Dwight and Caroline have a daughter, but their happiness is short-lived after a shocking diagnosis. Ossie is told a terrible secret by a dying parishioner, and hopes to trade the information to George, who is seeking a way to reclaim his lost political power by buying land he can corruptly control. Rebecca Front (The Thick of It) guest stars. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018** Highlights. Action from the day's group fixtures. **11.20** **MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** England v Panama. Another chance to see both sides' second Group G match. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.15** Best Bakes Ever. (R) **12.40** Haiky Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.40** Points of View. **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** Tennis: Queen's. The Fever-Tree Championships singles final. **5.30** Million Pound Menu. (R) **6.30** **Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of a final batch of business plans, including an idea for a child's toothbrush that doubles as a mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing.** Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer embark on an angling trip round the UK. The first stop is Norfolk, where they fish for tench and reminisce about their childhood. (R) **8.00** **Expedition Volcano.** Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that has rarely been studied. The mountain is surrounded by forests, which provide cover for armed militant groups, and the scientists will only have a few short hours to gather information. They then move on to the surrounding area, a dangerous landscape marked by craters from past eruptions. (R) **9.00** **Reporting Trump's First Year: The Fourth Estate.** New series. Documentary following the staff of the New York Times and exploring the critical issues facing journalism in the wake of Donald Trump's presidency. The first episode examines the first three months of Trump's time in office, as the possibility of Russian interference in the election emerges and the media is condemned as an enemy of the people by the new president. **10.15** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **11.00** **Film: Oasis: Supersonic.** (2016) Documentary about the early years of the Manchester band. **1.00** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Ninjabo: Tournament of Elements. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **9.55** Midsomer Murders. (R) **11.50** The Best of the Voice Worldwide. **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Film: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold. (2009) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.05** **Regional Programme: Weather.** **6.15** **FIFA World Cup 2018.** Poland v Colombia (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch introduces coverage of both teams' second match in Group H, which comes from Kazan Arena in Russia. The sides have not met since a friendly in 2006, when Colombia claimed a 2-1 away win. Given the South Americans' greater recent World Cup experience, they will be hopeful of another victory this evening. However, the Poles have a team that cannot be taken lightly and were in impressive form in qualifying, comfortably topping a group containing the likes of Denmark, Romania and Montenegro. In contrast, Colombia's qualification campaign went right to the wire, with a 1-1 draw in their final match away to Peru, and Chile's 3-0 defeat in Brazil, allowing them to finish one point clear of the Peruvians and Chileans in the final automatic position. With commentary by Jon Champion and Ally McCoist, and analysis by Gary Neville, Roy Keane and Ian Wright. **9.15** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the second of two special World Cup editions, with contestants Shayne Ward, Paul Merson and Eni Aluko trying to guess familiar phrases. **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera.** Three-part series featuring clips of things that can go wrong at 30,000 feet. (R) **11.25** **The Big Fish Off.** (R) **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.00** Film: The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **3.35** Film: Dante's Peak. (1997) Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan. **5.40** Bang on Budget. **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick celebrates his birthday with a hot air balloon ride over the chateau at sunrise, before setting to work in the kitchen making his own jam and alcohol from the vast quantities of fresh fruit waiting to be harvested in the garden. Angel starts work on a new project of her own - building a geodesic dome on top of a floating platform. (R) **8.00** **Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the quarter final, in which the five remaining teams must impress judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin in two challenges on the theme of childhood. The first task is to create a tiered macaron cake and two types of lollipops, before the bakers move on to create a fairy tale showpiece combining sugar and chocolate. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred finds unexpected allies and obstacles in her search for a way to protect Hannah. The Commander prepares for the dedication of a new Red Centre, and Nick struggles with his new assignment. **10.15** **Formula 1 French Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones is joined by David Coulthard to present action from the eighth round of the season at Circuit Paul Ricard, as the race returned to the calendar after 10 years. Mercedes and Red Bull will have been keen to bounce back here after Sebastian Vettel had a dominant weekend in Canada last time out. **12.10** Gogglebox: The Best Bits. Memorable critiques delivered by the armchair critics. (R) **1.05** The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **2.00** The Secret Life of the Zoo. Black rhino Kitani is due to give birth at Chester Zoo. (R) **2.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three rival sellers in Bournemouth try and clinch a sale from buyer Steve. (R) **3.50** My Kitchen Rules. The grand final. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moby. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Dipdy Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Inside Kensington Palace. (R) **1.20** Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole. **3.05** Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. (2002) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **4.05** 5 News Update. **4.10** Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. (2002) Concluded. **5.20** Film: Serendipity. (2001) **6.20** 5 News Update. **6.25** Film: Serendipity. (2001) Concluded. **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Old Trafford. **8.00** **41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi.** Cameras reveal the nation's most extreme animal lovers and witness what can happen when their obsessions get out of hand, featuring a couple who live with 41 dogs. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: Blackhat. (2015) Premiere. A computer hacker is enlisted by the FBI to help find the terrorist who is using his hi-tech code to commit cyber crimes. Crime drama, starring Chris Hemsworth. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: Blackhat. (2015) Concluded. **11.25** Film: Hummingbird. (2013) A former soldier is drawn into the London underworld, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Wentworth Prison. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** House Busters. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Nigel Kennedy Plays Bach & Gershwin: BBC Bigscreen Weekend **8.00** Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster **10.00** Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered **11.00** Night on Film - An A-Z of the Dark **12.00** The Art of Scandinavia **1.00** David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **2.00** Classic Quartets at the BBC **3.00** Cruel Sea: The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster **4.00** Close **ITV2**
12.40 Take Me Out **1.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Beethoven (1992) **4.40** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **6.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftermath **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.05** CelebAbility **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.20 Rosemary & Thyme **5.00** Vera **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Classic Brit Awards 2018 **12.30** Blue Murder **1.55** Liverpool 1 **2.50** Road to Avonlea **4.30** Rosemary & Thyme **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. **6.20** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **8.05** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **10.00** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989) **12.20** River Monsters **1.20** Minder **2.30** The Protectors **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.35** Young Sheldon **2.05** The Big Bang Theory **6.05** Film: Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.05** Gogglebox Australia **Film4**
11.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **1.00** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) **3.10** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **5.00** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.10** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **9.00** Lone Survivor (2013) **11.20** Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **1.35** Quadrophonia (1979) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Stolen Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective who specialises in finding missing children is banned from the case when her own teenager is abducted. But determined to find the girl, she defies her superiors and embarks on her own investigation to save her flesh and blood before it is too late. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth, Nicole Munoz, Steve Bacic and Matthew Kevin Anderson. (2015)

TUESDAY

Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Ex-Wife Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman's ex-husband offers to help explain her floral business, but his his vengeful estranged wife seems determined to make the pair's life a living hell. Thriller, starring Marguerite Moreau, Jordan Belfi and Arianne Zucker. (2017)



Rocky III, Thursday, ITV, 10.55pm

THURSDAY

Rocky III, ITV, 10.55pm

World heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Balboa settles down into a life of luxury - but a cloud appears on the horizon in the shape of ambitious contender Clubber Lang, whose brutal fighting style represents a serious threat to his title. Drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Mr T, Burgess Meredith, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and Hulk Hogan. (1982)

FRIDAY

Mad Max 2, ITV, 10.45pm

A former cop haunted by his tragic past roams the wasteland of Australia in the aftermath of a nuclear war. He arrives at a besieged settlement and grudgingly helps protect the residents from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Futuristic adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1981)

Susanna and Piers capture the mood of the nation

Have you ever thought to yourself: "I just don't have enough Piers Morgan in my life?"

Perhaps not. However, for those fans of Good Morning Britain who do enjoy listening to Morgan's controversial views at breakfast time, there is some good news – the former journalist and his co-host Susanna Reid are presenting a one-off prime-time edition of the show.

Announcing the programme on GMB a few weeks back, Morgan said it would be "this show, after the watershed", so no doubt the already controversial presenter will relish the opportunity to let off even more steam than he does at 8am.

He continued: "You know you think you've had enough of me in the mornings? Good news Britain, you're going to get a load of me in the evenings because we are having our first ever Good Evening Britain."

"We are coming to prime time – we're actually very excited about it. I won't have to get out of bed for that

until about mid-afternoon, it's going to be great."

Susanna jokingly added: "We've made the big time!"

Former tabloid editor Morgan is no stranger to controversy, and if anything he seems to have stepped up his provocation levels since his introduction as permanent GMB presenter in November 2015.

In the last few years, he has slammed model and actress Amber Rose for a knickerless tweet, taunted Hilary Clinton supporters after Donald Trump's presidential election victory, criticised a women's march in America, feuded with Harry Potter author JK Rowling, and is constantly trolling Kim Kardashian.

More recently, Piers made what many people thought was his most controversial point ever – stating that it is better to put the milk in a cup before the tea bag when making a brew.

In case you haven't noticed, there's a football match taking place this evening – England take on

Belgium in what could prove to be a pivotal final group game for Gareth Southgate's men at Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia – so Morgan and Reid will have plenty to discuss with their guests.

Depending on their previous results against Tunisia and Panama, the Three Lions could need a positive result against Roberto Martinez's talented Belgian side which came into the tournament as one of the favourites and includes Premier League stars Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Thibaut Courtois.

The GMB team will be gauging the mood of the nation following the big match, but whatever the result, Morgan will no doubt have plenty to say, as football is one of his passions.

He is a lifelong fan of Arsenal and was an outspoken critic of the club including now former manager Arsène Wenger on social media and on the radio, often calling for his sacking.



Good Evening Britain, Thursday, ITV, 9.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Britain's Best Junior Doctors BBC2, 7.30pm

New series. Jo Brand hosts a quiz in which two teams of junior doctors from teaching hospitals around Britain, with in-house medical expert Dr Helen Lawal on hand to explain the medical jargon. The first heat features University Hospitals of Leicester v Kettering General Hospital, and the contestants tackle an array of rigorous questions ranging from diagnosing a patient's symptoms, prioritising cases in a mock A & E department, and getting stuck in with their chosen specialism, and the teams are competing for the highest score of the week to win a place in Friday's final.

TUESDAY

NHS at 70 - Live BBC2, 8pm

As you may have noticed if you've been paying attention to the schedules lately, the National Health Service celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. But while we may be looking back at its history, what does its future hold? That's one of the questions posed by this live event, which comes from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Hosted by Anita Rani and Nick Robinson in front of an audience of staff and patients, the programme

looks at how the NHS has grown since its inception in 1948 and explores the challenges facing it today, drawing on some new and exclusive research. As well as finding out how much the public are prepared to pay to keep the NHS going, Robinson, who was recently treated for cancer himself, looks at how the service compares to health provisions in other countries.

WEDNESDAY

The Highland Midwife Channel 5, 8pm

New series. Morven treats a woman who wants a home birth, but when she is still in labour after more than 30 hours, a difficult decision must be made. Hazel helps a woman preparing for her third C-section, who fears she will not survive the procedure following complications with her previous births - and with her military husband away from home, it's up to the midwife to keep her calm. Finally, Ruth finds herself facing the possibility of delivering a baby in the back of an ambulance while they are still an hour away from the hospital.

THURSDAY

FIFA World Cup 2018 ITV, 6.15pm

England v Belgium (Kick-off 7.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both sides' final Group G match from Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia. England will be hoping to continue their good record against today's opponents, having won 15 of the 21 meetings between the two sides, the last occasion being a 1-0 victory back in June 2012. However, Gareth Southgate's men have won only four games at the group stages since France 98, and will be looking to give England fans more hope that they can progress further in the tournament than in previous years. The Three Lions will also be keen to improve on the fact that they haven't progressed past the quarter-finals since Italia 1990. Belgium also haven't made it past the same stage



FIFA World Cup 2018, Thursday, ITV, 6.15pm

since they finished fourth at the 1986 tournament in Mexico, when they were defeated 2-0 by Argentina in the semi-finals.

FRIDAY

Building Britain's Canals Channel 5, 8pm

Writer and historian Dan Jones examines the creation of the picturesque Kennet and Avon Canal, which was born from a murky pool of dirty deals and demanding landowners. It came into being thanks to the genius of young engineer John Rennie, whose inspiration and innovations created a waterway that linked Bristol to London. Dan discovers how Rennie plotted the canal's route using the most basic of surveying instruments and marvels at the engineering innovations that made it all possible, such as the water-powered pumping station at Claverton. Last in the series.

The Bridge

BBC2, 9pm

The homeless girls discover the identity of the killer following an encounter with psychologist Niels Thormod, and try to get in touch with Henrik to pass on what they know. However, they are forced to flee for their lives when the murderer comes looking for them.

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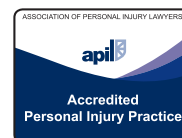
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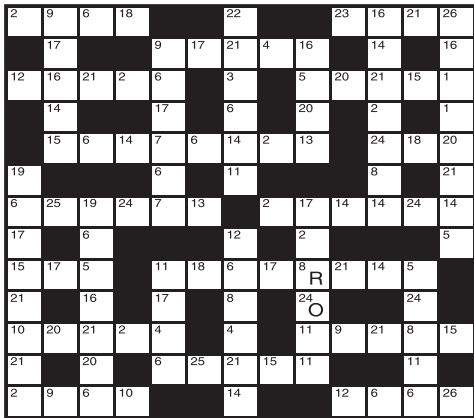


BRAIN GYM

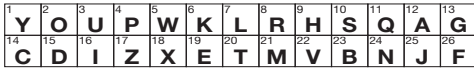
No.485

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

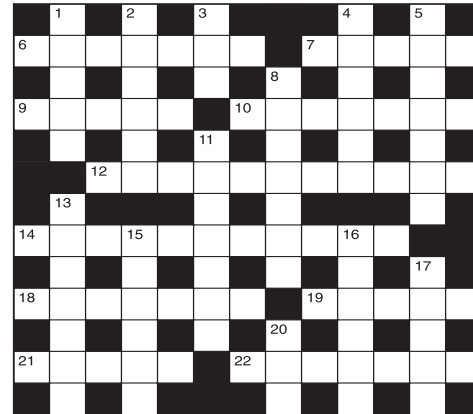
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Arrive round the vessel to join together (7)
7. See 21 Across.
9. Almost provide protection from fallen debris (5)
10. A group of actors on strike rejected (4,3)
12. Adopt a relaxed position and tolerate a bit of banter (5,2,4)
14. Not a single mistake by the serviceman! (6,5)
18. See 16 Down.
19. Social blunder in showing affection (5)
- 21 & 7Ac. Goes into hiding and arranges an insurance policy (5,5)
22. Inability to remember a name is changed (7)

Down

1. Soft cry of pain associated with the marsupial (5)
2. Take exception to the thing (6)
3. See 20 Down.
- 4 & 17Dn. This contains an amount of spirit to go with it (6,2,3)
5. Politely ask about a search (7)
8. Moving house - you'll need a motor and a pantechonicon (7)
11. Tacit description of postponed lawsuit (7)
13. Unsatisfactory statute, but it offered some relief (4,3)
15. Fat goat (6)
- 16 & 18Ac. Chief Scribes? (6,7)
17. See 4 Down.
- 20 & 3Dn. Threaten the little brat with death! (6)



Quick Clues:

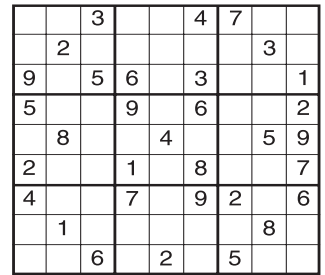
Across

6. Sportive (7)
7. Enchant (5)
9. Wide (5)
10. Pacify (7)
12. Banishment (11)
14. Allowable (11)
18. Stockings (7)
19. Drive (5)
21. Browbeat (5)
22. Tire (7)

Down

1. Plank (5)
2. Compassionate (6)
3. Muzzle (3)
4. Menace (6)
5. Liberty (7)
8. Shorten (7)
11. Associate (7)
13. Seemliness (7)
15. Principally (6)
16. Clear (6)
17. Meeting place (5)
20. Wages (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	5	3	4	2	9	1	7	8
4	9	7	8	5	1	2	6	3
2	8	1	7	6	3	4	5	9
7	2	8	3	1	6	5	9	4
3	1	6	9	4	5	7	8	2
9	4	5	2	7	8	6	3	1
8	6	2	5	3	4	9	1	7
1	7	9	6	8	2	3	4	5
5	3	4	1	9	7	8	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Come to rest; 7 Align; 8 Minaret; 10 Lose one's; 11 Step; 13 Damask; 15 Itches; 17 Wife; 18 Turncoat; 21 Yule-log; 22 Apace; 23 Friendless. Down: 1 Coins; 2 Mongoose; 3 Temper; 4 Ring; 5 Stretch; 6 Called away; 9 Type-setter; 12 Stone age; 14 Muffler; 16 Purged; 19 Opals; 20 Flee. QUICK - Across: 1 Stupendous; 7 Chart; 8 Contact; 10 Evermore; 11 Pair; 13 Treble; 15 Cinema; 17 Away; 18 Response; 21 Explore; 22 Argue; 23 Persistent. Down: 1 Stale; 2 Untimely; 3 Escort; 4 Done; 5 Unaware; 6 Accentuate; 9 Threatened; 12 Displace; 14 Example; 16 Recess; 19 Night; 20 Toss.

Quiz

1. To which collection of stories does How The Leopard Got His Spots belong?
2. Which city is at the centre of the Asian dollar market?
3. Which former tennis star took Harry Carpenter's place at Wimbledon?
4. Which silk fabric's name is derived from the Persian for 'spun'?
5. Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
6. Who is the chief god of Scandinavian mythology?
7. What nationality was Mata Hari?
8. Of which country are the Chatham Islands part?
9. What sort of creature is a knot?
10. What do the letters J.P. stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Parsifal and Lohengrin; 2 0; 3 Carbon; 4 The Atlantic; 5 Rembrandt; 6 Office of Fair Trading; 7 Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin; 8 Epilepsy; 9 Dennis Potter; 10 Honduras.

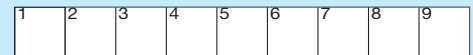
Niner: SHOWERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

79228
93221
62547

gives a Biblical character,
gives a second Biblical character,
gives a third Biblical character.



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Island hop heaven is a cruise

A GREEK island and Turkey escape is the best option for seafaring first-timers.

Up until now, I'd never been on a cruise before. As a frequent sufferer of sea sickness and loather of organised fun, the idea of being stuck on a floating city never quite appealed. So, a three-day cruise, travelling to two countries and stopping at a whopping four Greek Islands, seemed like the perfect opportunity to challenge my preconceptions.

As I arrive in Athens to board the 1,664-passenger Celestyal Olympia liner, I feel anxious. What if I get claustrophobic? What if I get the nasty norovirus bug that always seems to be popping up in the press?

Luckily, as soon as I'm shown to my cabin, I feel at ease. While my room, equipped with two single beds and a shower, is little more than a cubby, it's cosy and I feel safe. Exploring the ship, I quickly discover boredom is not going to be an option – there are multiple restaurants, bars, shops, performance rooms (this includes a disco and a theatre), a spa and swimming pools. Most importantly, the sprawling ship is impeccably clean throughout.

Time to party

Our first island stop is the 'party island' of the Greek Isles, Mykonos. Walking down the maze of stone streets littered with high-end bars and boutiques, it's easy to see why this island has an ultra-glamorous reputation. I enjoy gin cocktails in an al fresco bar, while trendy revellers dance to thumping Eurobeats. A 10.30pm curfew sends me scurrying back to the ship, but there's plenty of opportunities to party on-board.

Feline fun in Turkey

Come morning, we're already in another country – Turkey. Disembarking at Kusadasi, I head out for a guided tour of Ephesus, an Ancient Greek city dating back to the 10th century BC. Impressive ruins include an ancient theatre that once seated up to 25,000 and

Isle be there – the windy island of Mykonos



even the remains of a brothel. With a few hours to spare back on board before our next stop, I have time for an invigorating massage at the spa.

Finding pure peace

Next stop is Patmos, a Greek island with a spiritual atmosphere. Climbing the steep steps of the 11th century Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, I'm blown away by views of far-reaching farmland, dotted with pink island flowers. Another unforgettable site is the Cave of Apocalypse, where John of Patmos received the visions which he recorded in the Book of Revelation.

Picture perfect – the beautiful island of Santorini



On-board entertainment

With a heavy heart I leave this haven of tranquillity and am thrown into something quite different – night-time cruise entertainment. Sat on a velvet armchair in front of a stage, I'm transported back in time to Vegas showrooms of the 1950s – and although the cabaret entertainment is certainly cheesy, it's also hilarious.

Next stop is Crete, with a tour of the Minoan Palace of Knossos (built at the beginning of the Middle Minoan period from 2000-1580 BC), where the legend of the Minotaur was born. Today, 70 peacocks roam the ruins.

Picture perfect sunsets

Our penultimate stop is the island of Santorini. Yes, it's crowded, but you can easily dodge the masses by wandering the labyrinth of gleaming white streets. The wines cultivated here are excellent and served at many of the bars.

Before getting off the ship at Piraeus on the mainland, I end my voyage with yet another session of karaoke. As I knock back another cheeky G&T, I can't help but marvel about how wrong I was about cruises.

LAURA HANNAM

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

35

The Chronicle Thursday, June 21, 2018

Rural property set within two acres of grounds

This excellent rural property in Stafford Brook Road, Birches Valley, Rugeley, is set within two acres of garden and orchards including a paddock and stables.

Currently having two double bedrooms, the residence benefits from a fully boarded loft room ready for conversion to a third bedroom with Velux windows on both sides. It is for sale through Lovett & Co at £500,000.

The idyllic location has direct access to the many footpaths and bridleways, in addition to the heavily wooded areas and would be of particular interest to buyers with equestrian, walking and cycling interests.

The property is set on a large plot stretching over approximately two acres and features an extensive and stunning private rear garden, a large horse and pony paddock/field, purpose-built stables, woodland areas and a delightful orchard with a variety of fruit trees.

The property itself is filled with character, charm and outstanding features which include a spacious lounge and a superb open plan dining kitchen finished to a high specification. There is a useful study/sitting room which could potentially be used as a third bedroom, two large double bedrooms, fully boarded loft with Velux windows, light and electrics and the potential for one/two additional bedrooms.

Outside is a driveway with ample parking, a useful purpose brick-built garden room with light and electrics with potential use as an office/study and a garage.

It is situated in the sought-after area of Birches Valley, within easy reach of Rugeley town centre which offers a wide range of amenities and is only a couple of minutes away from Cannock Chase, an area of outstanding natural beauty. Commuter benefits include the A51, A460 and M6 Toll road linking the midlands motorway network with train and bus routes available from Rugeley town centre.

RUGELEY £500,000



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KEY FEATURES

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Two double bedrooms and potential for two more

Footpaths and bridleways close by



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Immaculately presented and spacious four-bedroom home

This immaculately presented four-bedroom detached house in Highfields Road, Chasetown, Burntwood, is for sale through Lovett & Co at £499,950.

The property has been finished to an extremely high standard throughout and has generous living spaces, a large rear garden, a double garage and driveway with parking for several vehicles. The property is well placed to take full advantage of local

CHASETOWN
£499,950

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shopping facilities, together with a range of further facilities including a doctors' surgery, a superstore, good local schooling, a library and excellent leisure facilities.

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there are both Cross and Inter City railway lines available.

The property is set over two floors. On the ground floor is a reception hallway, lounge, open plan breakfast kitchen, dining room, conservatory, utility, office and a guest W/C. On the first floor are four double bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom.

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GREAT WYRLEY, LOVE LANE

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BURNTWOOD, ST STEPHENS ROAD

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- Popular residential location 2
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- Ample driveway, tandem garage

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BURNTWOOD, SEDGEMOOR AVENUE

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- Scope for further extension (STPP)
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Great Wyrley Office - £225,000



GREAT WYRLEY, HOLLY LANE

- Extended semi-detached residence 3
- Immaculately presented interiors 1
- Spacious accommodation
- Ample driveway parking

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BURNTWOOD, CANNOCK ROAD

- Renovated, extended family semi 3
- Contemporary open-plan interiors 1
- Private, expansive rear garden C
- Handsome frontage. Ample parking

Great Wyrley Office - £172,500



CHURCHBRIDGE, NUTHURST DRIVE

- Semi-detached bungalow 2
- Two double bedrooms 1
- Sought after location F
- No upward chain

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**CANNOCK
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**CANNOCK
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- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room, cloakroom
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating

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**HEDNESFORD
STAFFORD LANE**



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- Gas central heating and double glazing
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LOT 1 - 20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes, WS11

9PR End terraced house Guide £65,000+

LOT 2 - 30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock, WS11 5QJ

Two bed detached bungalow Guide £125,000

LOT 3 - 31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock, WS11 1HX

Two bed end terrace Guide £120,000

LOT 4 - 21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford, WS12 4LT

Extended semi detached bungalow Guide £120,000

LOT 5 - 196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

Three bed semi detached house Guide £55,000+

LOT 6 - Flat 3 Grosvenor Court, Wolverhampton

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LOT 7 - 18 Coppice Road, Rugeley, WS15 1LN

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LOT 8 - Land Rear of Heath Gap Road, Cannock

**Parcel of Freehold land (0.228 acres or thereabouts)
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LOT 9 - Building Land Fronting Kilmorie Road,

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PP for det 4 bed house. Guide £100,000-£125,000+

LOT 10 - The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road,

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LOT 11 - Building Plots Adj, The Orchard,

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Building plot PP for 4 bed detached house Guide

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Address	Wednesday 13th, 20th & 27th June	Saturday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th June
18 Coppice Road, Rugeley	9.00am	9.00am
196 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford	9.45am	9.45am
21 Balmoral Drive, Hednesford	10.15am	10.15am
30 Old Fallow Road, Cannock	10.45am	10.45am
31 Old Penkridge Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
20 Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes	11.45am	11.45am
The Orchard, Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	12.30pm	12.30pm
Flat 3 Grosvenor Court Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	By prior appointment with agents	
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The first floor is split into two areas to the front of the property, having three bedrooms with the master having a dressing area and en-suite and a further family five-piece bathroom.

To the rear is bedroom four with a dressing room and en-suite and balcony overlooking the fields at the rear of the property. Outside the property has a landscaped rear garden with patio seating areas, and in total the plot sits in approximately 2.9 acres.

In more detail the approach to the property is through remote controlled wrought iron gates opening onto the gravelled driveway providing extensive parking. The outside plot is a mix of landscaped terrace with an inset patio seating area, pathways and a walled garden with two level paddocks.

The main lounge has French doors leading out onto the rear garden, triple aspect double glazed windows facing the front and rear elevation, under-floor heating and down lighting.

The open plan kitchen, lounge and dining room has bi-folding double glazed doors to the rear elevation, tiled flooring with under-floor heating and down lighting.

To book that all important viewing, contact Webbs Estate Agents on 01543 468846.



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EPC 52

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ASH CLOSE**



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- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Single Garage and Driveway
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**HEDNESFORD
BELT ROAD**



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Four Piece Bathroom
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- Conservatory
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- Viewing Essential

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EPC 67

**HEDNESFORD
KENMORE AVENUE**



- Three Double Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
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- Quiet Location
- Viewing Essential

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EPC 0

**HEDNESFORD
KINROSS AVENUE**



- Entrance Hallway
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge Diner
- Utility
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- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Driveway

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EPC 67

**CANNOCK
HUNTER ROAD**



- Three Bedrooms
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Oakfield Close, Etching Hill

£550,000

NEW



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this superb detached residence sat in a mature garden plot of approximately 1/3 of an acre. "Tanglewood" is positioned at the top of a private drive, being one of only seven properties and is located on the rural fringe of Cannock Chase.

Wolseley Road, Rugeley

£399,950

SOLD



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this exceptional six bedroom executive detached property situated in a sought after area of the town. The property is very well presented and appointed throughout and particular attention should be brought to the large private plot with electric gated entrance and plentiful parking for several vehicles and

Holly Cottage, Colton

£385,000

SOLD



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this traditional detached cottage situated on an elevated plot within the Village of Colton. Holly Cottage has many features and an internal inspection is highly recommended. Externally the property has well maintained cottage gardens and also benefits from a detached double garage and plentiful parking. A rear

Hednesford Road, Rugeley

£399,950

NEW



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this traditional 1920's four bedroom detached property situated on one of the largest garden plots on the Hednesford Road. "Tall Trees" as the property is locally known offers family sized flexible accommodation with all the wonderful proportions and features one would expect to find in a property of this era.

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Springfield Avenue, Rugeley £99,995



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three bedroom semi detached property, located on a corner plot and being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Porch, Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Guest W.C and Lean Too. Landing to Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Good sized Gardens and

Sheringham Drive, Etching £175,000



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented detached home with No Upward Chain. Internal inspection is highly recommended and accommodation includes: Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Three bedrooms and shower room, Front and Rear Gardens with driveway

Mount Road, Etching Hill £299,950



JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this traditional semi detached house located on a prestigious road in Etching Hill with open aspect to the front elevation. The accommodation comprises in brief: Hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen with utility and guest wc, garden room, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom and attic space.

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Sheringham Drive, Etching £275,000



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this extended three double bedroom bungalow situated at the end of a cul-de-sac. The bungalow sits on an elevated plot with far reaching views to the front and internal inspection is highly recommended to appreciate the spacious design and layout, also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN

Langley Way, Hawksyard £219,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this superbly presented four bedroom semi detached three storey home. The property is positioned on a corner with garage and parking to the side. Internally the master bedroom occupies the top floor with en suite and dressing area, three further bedrooms, master bathroom, lounge, dining

High Street, Colton £239,995



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow with additional loft space. Positioned on a delightful plot with large rear garden viewing is highly recommended and accommodation comprises: Hallway, Lounge, Snug/ Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Bathroom, Kitchen, Boot

Chadsfield Road, Rugeley £299,950



● JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale arguably one of the finest detached bungalows in Rugeley within walking distance to the town. The bungalow is situated on a large mature garden plot surrounded by similar detached bungalows in a leafy part of the town. The plot has two driveway entrances providing plentiful

Windsor Close, Rugeley £240,000



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this exceptionally well presented detached family. The property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and consists of entrance hallway, guest wc, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms (originally four), en suite with dressing room and main bathroom, gardens

Chester Road, Rugeley £138,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this lovely two bedroom town house situated on the popular Birches development. Having an enviable location in a small row of properties with open aspect to front and side with No Upward Chain. Ideal FTB/ Investment purchase, viewing essential

Anson Mews, Rugeley £84,995



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this one bedroom ground floor apartment offered with No Upward Chain. The apartment has a pleasant courtyard garden to rear backing onto the Trent and Mersey Canal and one allocated parking space. Viewing Essential

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley £254,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this four bedroom detached property situated on a corner position on The Birches. Internally the accommodation comprises: Hallway, Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Breakfast Kitchen, Garage, Master with en suite, Three Further Bedrooms, Main Bathroom, Front and Rear

Somerset Avenue, Rugeley £186,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious and well presented detached family home situated on a large impressive plot with private gardens and plentiful parking. Briefly comprising hallway, guest wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, study, three bedrooms and bathroom, viewing essential

Waverley Gardens, Etching £349,950



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this unique detached property which benefits from far reaching views and backs onto Etching Hill. The property itself is exceptionally deceptive and offers spacious reception rooms, four bedrooms and modern bathrooms. The plot is unusually large with gardens to front, rear and side and

Buckmaster Way, Rugeley £186,000 OIEO



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this exceptionally well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on Ravenhill Park. Having the benefit of two allocated side by side parking spaces to the front and an abundance of upgrades throughout the property must be viewed to appreciate and is an ideal

Birches Valley, Cannock £285,000



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this rare opportunity to acquire a three bedroom semi detached house in the heart of Cannock Chase-An area of outstanding natural beauty. The property must be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer which briefly comprises hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen,

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£450,000

Heather Valley
HEDNESFORD



Stunning four bedroom detached family home / Set on highly sought after semi rural area / Occupies good sized corner plot / Mature three tier private rear garden / Driveway for up to six vehicles

£450,000

Littleworth Drive
RAWNSLEY



Five bedroom detached family home / NO UPWARD CHAIN / Breakfast kitchen / Drive for more than ten vehicles / Enclosed rear garden / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £400,000

Wellington Drive
CANNOCK



Outstanding & superbly maintained four/five bedroom detached family home / Set in quiet semi rural location overlooking woodland to the front / Immaculately presented & finished to high standard

£360,000

Meriden Close
CANNOCK



Outstanding four bedroom detached family home / Overlooking quiet green to the front / Tastefully decorated & finished to high standard throughout / Generous living spaces throughout / Superb

Offers in Excess of £350,000

Dartmouth Road
CANNOCK



Immaculately presented four bedroom semi detached house / Contemporary design & high specification finish throughout / Stunning open plan ground floor layout / Driveway for three vehicles

£325,000

Kingscroft
WIMBLEDON



Executive four bedroom detached family home / Set on large end plot within quiet & sought after cul-de-sac / Large private rear garden / Driveway with parking for several vehicles / Double garage currently

£320,000

Station Road
GREAT WYRLEY



Well presented three bedroom 1920's style property / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom suite / Well proportioned bedrooms / Good sized private rear garden

£250,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEDON



Three bedroom detached family home / Sought after location / Off road parking for 2/3 / Victorian pitched roof / conservatory / Spacious lounge & separate dining room

£250,000

Hill Street
NORTON CANES



Immaculate three bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow / Set over floors / Situated in quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan kitchen diner / Stunning orangery to rear / Substantial first floor converted dormer

Offers in Excess of £240,000

Lichfield Road
CANNOCK



Very spacious four bedroom detached house / Open plan dining kitchen / Large open reception hall / Good sized private rear garden / Garage and driveway with ample parking

£240,000

Carlton Close
HEATH HAYES



Three bedroom detached family home / Large corner plot within a sought after location / Open plan kitchen-diner finished to a high specification / Delightful south facing private rear garden

Offers in the Region Of £235,000

Edward Street
CANNOCK



Well presented & deceptively spacious three bedroom detached family home / Set on good sized plot / Large well established private rear garden / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation

£210,000

Armitage Lane
BRERETON



Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi detached house / Spacious lounge-diner / Large breakfast kitchen / Conservatory / Versatile ground floor bedroom / En-suite to master / Private rear garden

£195,000

View Street
HEDNESFORD



Deceptively spacious two bedroom detached bungalow / Set on good sized plot / Charming mature private rear garden / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Delightful rear sun room

£190,000

Pye Green Road
CANNOCK



Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Built in popular 1930's style / Set on good sized plot & recently refurbished throughout / Superb spacious open plan dining kitchen

£180,000

Wolverhampton Road
CANNOCK



Deceptively spacious two/three bedroom dormer style bungalow / ●●NO ONWARD CHAIN●● / Delightful rear conservatory / Low maintenance rear garden / Garage and driveway

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Chapel Street
NORTON CANES



Three bedroom dormer style bungalow / Sought after village of Norton Canes / Spacious open plan lounge diner / Driveway with parking for 2/3 vehicles / Delightful well maintained private rear

£170,000

Hednesford Road
HEATH HAYES



Extremely spacious three bedroom detached character property / Modern method of auction / Set on a large plot / Ideal for investors / Large rear garden stretching over 45 metres

£170,000

Oakleigh Drive
BRERETON



Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Set within quiet cul-de-sac location / Far reaching views of the countryside / Superb contemporary split level layout / Good sized tiered private rear garden

£160,000

Leafdown Close
HEDNESFORD



Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Quiet sought after cul-de-sac / spacious lounge / Open plan kitchen-diner / Private rear garden and a driveway with ample parking

£160,000

Evergreen Heights
HEDNESFORD



Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Freshly painted throughout & benefits from newly modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Tarmac driveway with parking for two vehicles

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Hussey Road
NORTON CANES



Well presented two bedroom semi detached house / Good sized lounge / Modern fitted open plan dining kitchen / Charming private rear garden / Driveway for two vehicles

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Heath Gap Road
CANNOCK



Traditional Victorian three bedroom semi detached house / Modern fitted kitchen & ground floor bathroom / Spacious living accommodation / Large private rear garden

£133,000

Bryans Way
WIMBLEDON



Two bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Rural views to rear / Spacious lounge and kitchen-diner / Private rear garden / Driveway for 2 cars

Offers in Excess of £125,000

Springfield Rise
HEDNESFORD



Well presented two bedroom terraced house / Set on quiet cul-de-sac / Tastefully decorated & finished to good modern standard / Two spacious reception rooms / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom /

£120,000

Barnard Way
CANNOCK



Two bedroom ground floor maisonette / Exciting investment opportunity / Available with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £500 PCM

£85,000

Nelson Drive
WIMBLEDON



one bedroom self contained ground floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan living area / Shower room / Ideal for first time buyers and investors

£75,000

Apple Walk
HEATH HAYES



One bedroom ground floor apartment / Ideal for first time buyers and investors / Good sized open plan lounge-diner / Allocated parking plus visitor spaces

Offers in Excess of £65,000

Chaffinch Close
HEDNESFORD



One bedroom self contained first floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Modern fitted kitchen and shower room / Ideal for first time buyer or investors

£65,000

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**ARMITAGE ROAD
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£200,000



BOOTHURST ROAD, HAWKSYARD

Located in a popular location is this Four Bedroomed, Family home benefitting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner. First Floor Landing, Four Bedrooms one having an Ensuite, and Bathroom. Front garden and rear Gardens and SINGLE GARAGE. EPC rating C

£220,000

OFFERS OVER



SHERINGHAM DRIVE, ETCHINGHILL

A modern three bedroomed detached situated in a popular cul-de-sac location with views over Cannock Chase to rear. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms, En-suite Shower Room and Family Bathroom. INTEGRAL GARAGE. Driveway to front. Enclosed garden to rear.

£220,000

OFFERS OVER



**OLD EATON ROAD
RUGELEY**

An extended family home benefitting from UPVC double-glazing and Gas central heating. Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Conservatory. First Floor Landing, Five Bedrooms and Bathroom. Off-road parking to front, SINGLE GARAGE. Good sized garden to rear. EPC rating C

£210,000



**INGATHORPE ROAD
HAWKSYARD**

A well presented three-storey, four bedroomed family home. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Three double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom. Second Floor Landing with Master Bedroom with En-suite. Gardens to front and rear. Single Garage. EPC rating B

£225,000



RUNNING HILLS, ARMITAGE

A lovely family home positioned in a popular village location. Viewing essential to appreciate the accommodation on offer. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Enclosed garden to rear. Off-road parking to front. EPC rating D

£230,000

NO CHAIN



**BURNTHILL LANE
RUGELEY**

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN is this four bedroomed detached family home. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room and Downstairs Cloakroom. First Floor Landing with Four Bedrooms, Ensuite Shower room and Family Bathroom. INTEGRAL GARAGE with gardens to front and rear. EPC rating C

£232,500

NO CHAIN



**BEECHMERE RISE
ETCHINGHILL**

A well presented and spacious family home being split-level in design. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Entrance Hall, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Lower Floor Hallway, Lounge, Dining Area, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room and Downstairs Shower Room. INTEGRAL GARAGE and off road parking for 3/4 cars. Enclosed tiered gardens to rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C

£239,950



BUCKMASTER WAY, RUGELEY

An extended property positioned on a good sized corner plot on the popular Ravenhill Park. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Open plan Kitchen/Dining Area and Family Room. First Floor Landing, Four Bedrooms with Master having an Ensuite Shower Room and Family Bathroom. SINGLE GARAGE with gardens to front, side and rear. EPC rating B.

£310,000



VILLIERS GARDENS, ARMITAGE

Executive family home in popular village location. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Large Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room. First Floor Landing with Four Bedrooms, Two En-Suite Shower Rooms plus a Family Bathroom. INTEGRAL GARAGE. Enclosed garden to rear. EPC rating C

£327,500

NEW HOME



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HAUGHTON**

A spacious new build detached family home. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Large Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Study, Lounge, Open Living Kitchen. First Floor Landing with Four Double Bedrooms one having an En-Suite Shower Room and Family Bathroom. SINGLE GARAGE with driveway providing off-road parking. Large enclosed garden to rear. EPC rating to follow

£399,995

NO CHAIN



WOODFORD HOUSE, SLITTING MILL

An individually designed detached family home positioned in the popular Slitting Mill area of Rugeley. UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated the property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Set on three levels the accommodation must be viewed to appreciate. Potential for creating additional living accommodation. EPC rating D

£485,000



OAKWOOD, ETCHINGHILL

UPVC double-glazed and Gas centrally heated. Porch, Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Study, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen and Utility Room. Galleried Landing, Four Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Room and Family Bathroom. INTEGRAL GARAGE plus additional storage. Enclosed garden to rear. LARGE COPSE TO SIDE. EPC rating D

£575,000



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MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO THE
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THE MARKET

Facelifted Aygo offers welcome improvements

By Tom Wiltshire

The first-generation Toyota Aygo – launched in 2007 – was a brilliant city car, virtually without rivals until the likes of the Volkswagen Up! showed the world that they could be as mature as superminis. The second-generation version, in 2014 and once again built alongside identical models from Peugeot and Citroën, moved the game on slightly with a bold new look.

It's now received its first major upgrade since launch, giving it a new set of gloves in the fight against its rivals.

The old 'X' styling motif has been toned down, with the interchangeable coloured panel now replaced with a simpler 'face', similar to the rest of the Toyota range. It's flanked by new headlights with LED daytime running lights – mirrored by LED features in the tail lights – and bolstered with two eye-catching exterior colours: Blue Burst and Magenta Fizz.

Inside, there are few obvious changes, though the old infotainment system has been replaced with a more modern Pioneer head unit incorporating Android Auto.

Improvements

Under the skin there has been a raft of alterations, with minor improvements to the engine and serious work on reducing noise, vibration and harshness.

Though the Aygo's siblings from Peugeot and Citroën are offered with an additional, higher-powered engine, the Toyota gets just one. It's a 1.0-litre three-cylinder naturally aspirated unit, pumping out 71bhp and 93Nm of torque.

The engine offers up a characterful thrummy sound and pairs well with a progressive clutch and decent five-speed gearbox, but it's very slow. Despite performance figures broadly in line with other city cars, it feels far less peppery, and joining motorways or faster roads is a full-throttle effort.

It is, however, very efficient. Toyota claims 68.9mpg on the combined cycle – helped by the car's light weight.

As with most cars in this class, the key feature of the Aygo's driving experience is lightness – all the controls are free and easy, and the short-travel clutch is a nice bonus, allowing for quick gearshifts.

As with most city cars, the Aygo is pretty chuckable, with the narrow tyres clinging on without too much momentum to challenge them. It's rather remote, though, with the chassis and steering not as communicative



The 'X' styling motif has been toned down, with the interchangeable coloured panel replaced with a 'face', similar to the rest of the range

as they could be. It rolls heavily in the corners but the payoff is a comfortable ride – the Aygo deals effectively with city potholes and speed bumps. Toyota's worked hard on improving refinement, and while the result is a slight improvement over the old car, it's still not as hushed as rivals. The engine gets very vocal when it's worked hard – and you will need to work it hard – and wind noise is noticeable at higher speeds.

Before this facelift, the Aygo took the inspiration for its bold design from Japanese manga comics. The revisions tone things down rather, making for a car that's less divisive but also more anonymous.

Overall, it's a smart-looking little thing though, with eye-catching LED daytime running lights and a subtler 'X' design for the grille. The rear styling has remained the same, but we like the all-glass hatch and continuation of the 'X' theme.

Though basic models do look rather, well, basic, step up the range to mid-spec x-play or

above and you get bolder alloy wheels plus personalisation options for the front spoiler lip and the panels below the headlights.

After the bold exterior, the interior is a little disappointing. Some colour – as you'd find on the VW Up! or Renault Twingo – would lift things, but the Aygo is mostly a sea of different-coloured grey plastics.

It's not very spacious either. While rivals can accommodate adults in the rear, albeit for brief journeys, limited legroom and a severe lack of headroom mean you wouldn't be able to fit four six-footers in this car, no matter how short the trip. The boot is also tiny, with a high loading sill to lug things over.

Mid-spec x-play grade gets most essential kit including air conditioning, height adjustment for the driver's seat, Safety Sense automatic emergency braking and a touchscreen infotainment display. It's a big upgrade over the screen in the old car and, crucially for younger buyers, supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.



Higher trims add exclusive paint finishes and alloy wheels but not much extra equipment.

The x-plore grade adds foglights, a reversing camera and built-in sat nav, while high-end x-cite and x-clusiv gain climate control air conditioning, part-leather upholstery and keyless entry.

Step up the grades and things do quickly become expensive, though. A mid-spec x-play starts at £11,375 – more than £1,000 above a mid-spec Skoda Citigo SE, while our top-spec x-clusiv was an eye-watering £13,895.

The Toyota Aygo fails to overcome some of the hurdles that other city cars can leap – it's still very slow, unhappy cruising on the motorway and lacks the space that rivals offer. Remain in town though and it's a great option – easy to manoeuvre, effortless to park and fun to dart about in. The purchase price is a little high compared with rivals' but running costs should be very low indeed, and Toyota's standard five-year warranty is a big plus for private buyers.

Vauxhall's new all-electric car named e-Corsa



Another step in electric power

Vauxhall is to call the upcoming all-electric version of its popular Corsa city car the eCorsa.

Parent company PSA also confirmed that the zero-emissions vehicle will be produced at its Opel/Vauxhall plant in Spain from 2020.

Michael Lohscheller, chief executive of Opel Automobiles GmbH, said: "Our entire portfolio will be available with an electrified option by 2024. We will go electric and we will go global, and are leaving no stone unturned."

The new Corsa is being developed in partnership with the next-generation Peugeot 208. It comes as one of the first all-new models to be produced by Vauxhall while under PSA control.

The regular Corsa, which will be powered by a range of petrol and diesel engines, is set to arrive next year. Its powertrain options will likely be shared with the 208, with a more economical BlueHDi diesel offered alongside an updated PureTech petrol engine. The all-electric version, meanwhile, will follow in 2020.

As well as an all-electric Corsa, Vauxhall will also be launching a plug-in electric version of its Grandland X SUV. It is another step in the brand's plan to introduce four electrified models by 2020. According to Vauxhall it will be capable of hitting 60mph from a standstill in just under seven seconds, thanks to the additional punch brought by the electric motor.

The Grandland X PHEV is also set to arrive in 2020 alongside the eCorsa.

Suzuki's Celerio – gives good honest fuel consumption



Suzuki has one of the best 'Real MPG' scores of any car brand according to users of HonestJohn.co.uk

With low fuel consumption becoming even more important these days, Suzuki is very pleased to report that Celerio has been voted the Best Real MPG Performer by HonestJohn.co.uk in their top 10 recently analysed cars.

The 'Real MPG' section of the HonestJohn.co.uk website was launched five years ago following complaints from readers that their cars could not match official fuel economy figures.

Readers can log the true fuel economy that their own vehicles are achieving into a database of more than 150,000 fuel consumption submissions.

The database covers over 2,500 model and engine configurations of cars since 2006.

Daniel Powell, managing editor of honestjohn.co.uk, comments "Suzuki has one of the best Real MPG scores of any car manufacturer. On average, Real MPG drivers get 90 per cent of their advertised economy with a Suzuki – the industry average is 83 per cent.

"The Celerio will return 93 per cent of its claimed economy at over 60mpg in everyday driving and the Auto Gear Shift (AGS) version is even more efficient with a score of 63.7 mpg.

Factor in the Celerio's affordable price and generous equipment levels and its easy to see why this little Suzuki is held in such high regard by HonestJohn.co.uk's 2.3 million readers".

Until the end of this month, the Celerio range

has a £500 customer saving and the S22 model at the offer price of £7,499 is available for an initial deposit of just £126 followed by 48 monthly payments of £126.72.

As with any PCP agreement, this will require a final optional payment which is £2,465 to keep the car.

Monthly payments can be as low as £89 for the S22 model if a deposit of £1,740 is made, again with a final payment of £2,465 and both have a representative APR of 5.9 per cent.

Standard specification highlights for the Celerio range include six airbags (Driver, passenger, side and curtain), ESP*, Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), front electric windows, DAB Radio and CD Tuner.



Videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit

Ford Kuga takes to centre stage as star of video project

By Jack Evans

Modern SUVs, such as our Ford Kuga currently on test, need to be adept at all tasks. These include driving the kids to school, carrying five people in plenty of comfort across long distances or, in our car's case, transporting camera equipment and the tame lens-handler who accompanies it.

Our resident videographer Zaak takes with him all manner of kit, with large Peli cases full of lenses, camera bodies and sound equipment – taking up a good amount of space. Fortunately, the Kuga's decent-sized boot is square and deep enough to fit everything. With the seats folded flat, it offers up a competitive 1,603 litres of space.

It provided a comfortable and dependable base camp on a recent shoot, and really did live up to the go-anywhere idea behind these sort of compact SUVs – despite the Kuga's lack of four-wheel-drive.

It also dealt well with a recent jaunt up to Manchester. With the boot packed with luggage and the cabin filled with occupants, it managed to while away the 200 or-so miles from the south coast up north with very little fuss. Its passengers exited at the other end with few complaints.

The real bonus here is the smooth 1.5-litre diesel engine that settles down impressively well at motorway speeds and the automatic gearbox, which takes the sting out of stop-start traffic.



The Kuga posing for the camera!

Both occasions are real examples of how versatile the Kuga can be, and how capable it is when facing a number of challenges.

Ford claims that the Kuga should be able to return 58.9mpg combined, but the results we've been seeing are a little way short of this. Overall, we've been averaging around 45mpg – still decent for a car of this size, but a little disappointing given the official claims.

Is there anything we'd change, given the chance? The wheels, perhaps. Though the optional alloy wheels fitted to our ST-Line specification car do look good and give the Kuga a fair amount of presence, they generate quite a lot of noise and give a sharpness to the way the car rides. It's certainly not uncomfortable, but if you're after top-notch ride quality, then we'd be opting for a smaller alloy size.

We'd also like to change the gear selector, as we're finding it too easy to slip into 'Sport' by mistake. It's located underneath 'drive' in the gearbox's gate, and can easily be selected when bringing the gearstick down.

You're then left wondering as to why the car is hanging on to gears quite so eagerly; it's meant to do this in sport mode, but it's often quite disconcerting when you haven't meant to select it.

The rubbery feeling to the steering remains whichever mode you're in, but in truth you soon get accustomed to it.

The same can be said for the Kuga's driving position, which is relatively high and confidence-inspiring, but somewhat different to any other SUV on sale today.

Overall, our Kuga is proving capable in all manner of conditions, and is showcasing just how useful these compact SUVs can be – and certainly why they're experiencing huge popularity at the minute. There are niggles, of course, but they're relatively small.

It's likely that the Kuga will be in frequent use in the coming months – during summer time, the extra space that a SUV affords makes it ideal for camping trips, runs to the tip and everything in between, so we'll see just how it gets on with all manner of activities.

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Kia's sports saloon combines great value and performance

By Jack Evans

Entering into the hugely competitive sports saloon segment comes the Kia Stinger GT S. Though perhaps better known for making compact and well-priced hatchbacks, this is a more premium offering from the South Korean manufacturer.

However, don't think it to be a sheep in wolf's clothing, as the Stinger weighs into battle with some impressive armour – a 3.3-litre turbocharged V6 sits under the bonnet, and sends power to the rear wheels only. Make no mistake, this is a fully-fledged sports saloon designed to take on offerings from established German rivals.

Powered by that previously mentioned V6, it sits above other Stingers powered by smaller-capacity diesel and petrol engines. It sits alongside the Optima saloon but is designed to be a far more premium machine than.

It's got enough room inside for five, and has a decent sized boot too – making it ideal for those who want to take people long distances in plenty of comfort – while bringing all of their luggage along.

As mentioned earlier, the Stinger GT S is powered by a 3.3-litre turbocharged V6 engine with 365bhp and 510Nm of torque. Kia claims that it's enough power to get the Stinger from 0-60mph in just 4.7 seconds, before reaching a top speed of 168mph.



The Stinger's interior ticks many boxes

Drive is sent to the rear wheels via an eight-speed automatic transmission. Helping to bring the car to a halt are high-performance Brembo brakes, with adjustable dampers which allow the car's ride to be tailored with one of five drive modes. There's a lot of kit – and plenty more than you'd expect given the car's £40,535 base price.

The way the Stinger covers ground is impressive. The steering is precise and has a decent amount of heft to it. It allows you to accurately place the car, despite the Stinger's relatively high kerbweight of 1,907kg.

There's little on the road today which looks quite like the Kia Stinger. The family 'Tiger Nose' grille sits at the front of the car, and works together with the angled LED headlights to create a rather imposing forward section. It's a big car – there's no doubt about that – but the car's styling does well to mask this overall bulk, with side air inlets and large 19-inch alloy wheels helping to create an aesthetic which is purposeful without looking 'out-there'.

The rear of the car is just as impressive to look at as the front thanks to sleek wraparound taillights and angry looking quad exhaust pipes. It's an overall design which has been well-judged and well executed.

The Stinger's interior ticks many boxes. The overall material quality is good, with an Alcantara headliner and brushed steel-effect elements helping to give the cabin a high-end feel. The seats have plenty of support, and were both heated and ventilated in the test car.

There's decent space in the back too. And boot space isn't bad either with 406 litres of load area, more than enough for a few suitcases or a decent size shop.

Standard equipment is really where the Stinger comes into its own. For the car's £40,535 entry price, there's an impressive amount of kit, including a full infotainment system accessed via an eight-inch colour touchscreen display, electrically-adjustable sports seats, electric sunroof and adaptive cruise control.

The Stinger has the manufacturer's full seven-year or 100,000 warranty, which is transferable between owners.

Plenty of exterior touches come as part of the overall cost, too. Large 19-inch alloy wheels feature as standard, as do LED headlights with automatic levelling and rain-sensing front wipers. It's an awful lot of kit, and if added to any other rival vehicle would skyrocket their price far beyond the Kia's.

The Kia Stinger makes for exceptionally good value-for-money. It's reasonably quick, offers decently involving handling and is pretty spacious too. What you're looking at is a very well specified alternative to more traditional and more expensive rivals, and one well worth considering if you're in the market for a premium sport saloon.



The overall design is well-judged and well executed

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Porsche creates concept to mark 70 years of sports cars

Porsche is celebrating 70 years of its sports cars this year, and to honour that landmark achievement it has created this – the 911 Speedster.

Let's take a look at the key aspects of this striking new car. There's a reason why this concept looks a little bit retro in places. It's been designed to pay tribute to the very first Porsche 356 "No.1" Roadster, which gained its operating permit back in June of 1948. The rear cover of the car is created from carbon-fibre, and covers a roll-over protection structure. It's been shaped into a 'double bubble' design, which is a design cue we first saw on the 1988 911 Speedster.



Protect

There's no convertible top, rather just a lightweight tonneau top that can protect the car from the rain when it's parked up. It also gets a 50s-style central fuel tank cap positioned in the centre of the car's bonnet. The headlights have intricate x-designs overlaid on top of them, in a nod to the process of taping up original race car headlamps so as to avoid them shattering. If you're after creature comforts in your drop-top Porsche, you may have to look elsewhere. To aid lightness, the Speedster

It's been designed to pay tribute to the very first Porsche 356 "No.1" Roadster

Concept does not have satellite navigation, air-conditioning or even a radio. However, the cabin has been finished in high-quality 'Cognac' leather – so it's not all bare-bones here. The Speedster utilises the chassis found in the current 911 GT3, and the whole car sits on classic-looking Fuchs design 21-inch alloy wheels. The Speedster uses a flat-six engine with close to 500bhp, similar to that

found in the current GT3. Here, it sends power to the rear wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox, and Porsche say that it is capable of revving up to 9,000rpm. The exhaust system has also been heavily developed, with engineers adding titanium tailpipes for a sporty engine note. There are chances that the Speedster will enter production, though Porsche isn't confirming this yet.

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Revised Fabia adds whole lot more

By James Parker

Škoda has announced the new range line-up, specifications and RRP pricing for the facelifted Fabia. Order books for the updated supermini are open now, with first deliveries expected in September. With a new, all-petrol engine range, boosted equipment levels, new safety systems and an even sharper look, the facelifted Fabia is set to raise sector standards once again.

The range will feature five familiar trim levels; S, SE, SE L, Monte Carlo and Colour Edition, and as with the current model, it will be available in hatch and estate forms. RRP prices range from £11,160 for the entry-level 1.0 MPI S hatch model to £17,950 for the 1.0 TSI 110 DSG SE L estate.

The new all-petrol engine range features state-of-the-art three-cylinder power units. Two MPI engines feature indirect injection and produce outputs of 60PS and 75PS respectively, while the two TSI engines are packed with advanced engineering, including turbocharging and direct petrol injection, enabling them to generate 95PS and 110PS. Both TSI engines are fitted with a petrol particulate filter. The most powerful of the quartet of engines can be matched with a seven-speed DSG gearbox as an option.

High equipment levels have been one of the Fabia's core strengths since its first appearance in 1999. The new facelifted model continues the Škoda tradition with exceptionally generous equipment lists across the range. LED daytime running lights are now standard across the range, while Front assist and a Multifunction trip computer are included on all models for the first time.

SE models gain front fog lights and 15-inch Cygnus alloy wheels over the outgoing model, along with Radio Swing Plus and auto up/down function for the electric windows. Colour Edition models gain 16-inch Vigo alloy wheels in white, silver or black.

Customers opting for the SE L benefit from an even more significant equipment boost over the previous model. All Fabia SE L models now feature Amundsen satellite navigation, Infotainment online (for one year), lighting in the front centre console and 16-inch Evora alloy wheels. These items are in addition to the Fabia SE L's already comprehensive specification list.

The ever-popular Fabia Monte Carlo further enhances its reputation for sportiness with a range of new features. These include climate control air conditioning, LED rear lights, rear electric windows and new seat upholstery. The styling package includes a black front spoiler, black roof, black floor mats and carbon-effect dashboard trim.

A new range of options has also been introduced – allowing owners to perfectly tailor their Fabia. Included for the first time are LED headlights (£960 RRP), 18-inch Vega alloy wheels (Monte Carlo Hatch only £600 RRP) and Blind spot detection and rear traffic alert (£390 RRP).

The new Blind spot detection feature alerts the driver to the presence of vehicles in the blind spot or approaching rapidly from behind when driving on multi-lane highways. The Rear Traffic Alert system monitors what is going on behind the vehicle and warns of a risk of collision when reversing.

Of course, no new Škoda would be complete without additional Simply Clever



Order books are now open for the updated Fabia supermini with deliveries expected in September

features. In addition to the existing Simply Clever elements, the ice scraper concealed in the fuel filler flap now incorporates a gauge for measuring the tyre tread depth.

And it's not just the equipment levels that have been improved. The Fabia's award-winning design has been given a subtle update. Building on the distinctive looks of the outgoing model, new LED daytime running lights instantly make the car more

noticeable on the road. The revised bonnet and grille combine to give the Fabia a sleeker appearance, finished by the narrower headlights. At the back, the design of the rear bumper is refined with added reflectors increasing the car's visibility - especially at night.

The Fabia has been a mainstay of Škoda's range since its introduction 19 years ago with more than four million examples having rolled

off the production line. The third-generation supermini was launched in 2014 and has already clocked up more than half a million sales worldwide – making it the brand's top seller in Europe and second-biggest here in the UK.

It's also proved rather popular with the motoring media, racking up a host of industry awards – including What Car? Car of the Year in 2014.

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MOTORING

Record-breaking lap for the Škoda Kodiaq vRS

Emotion, dynamism and passion – Škoda combines all of these qualities with the 'vRS' initials. Even before its market launch, the Czech car manufacturer's first high performance SUV, the Škoda Kodiaq vRS, proves that it can hold its own on the most challenging race track in the world.

Racing driver Sabine Schmitz set the lap record for a seven-seater SUV at the Nürburgring's legendary Nordschleife in the Škoda Kodiaq vRS, highlighting the car's performance qualities. The Kodiaq vRS extends the range of vRS models in the Škoda line up.

Fuchsröhre, Schwedenkreuz and Karussell – these sections of track on the Nürburgring's legendary Nordschleife are well-known to motorsport fans all over the world. No other race track is more challenging and nowhere else are drivers and vehicles pushed to their limits like they are on the 20.832-km-long circuit in the Eifel region. The Škoda Kodiaq vRS withstood the track conditions in the 'Green Hell' and, at 9:29.84 minutes, set the Nordschleife record for a seven-seater SUV.

Sabine Schmitz was at the wheel of the vRS during the record-breaking lap. Schmitz participates in the long-distance championship and the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring and in 1996, she became the first woman to win the 24-hour race and won again



The Kodiaq vRS set a lap record for an SUV

the following year. "The Škoda Kodiaq vRS is great fun on the track," she said. "Škoda has made full use of its large SUV's potential with the Kodiaq vRS. I can certainly imagine that I'll be encountering the Kodiaq vRS regularly during my laps around the Nordschleife in future," Schmitz said.

František Drábek, head of compact models at Škoda and responsible for the development of the Kodiaq vRS, was also present at the successful record attempt. He points out that: "The Kodiaq vRS equally embodies the versatility and spaciousness of a family SUV as well as emotion and dynamism."

The new 2.0 BITDI engine produces 239 PS. This allows for dynamic power delivery and excellent responsive qualities, even at low engine speed. Exhaust gases are purified by an SCR catalytic converter.

In the Kodiaq model range, the 2.0-litre BITDI diesel engine is exclusively reserved for the vRS, and thanks to Dynamic Sound Boost, the high-torque diesel engine's power is immediately apparent. With adaptive Dynamic Chassis Control (DCC) including Driving Mode Select and progressive steering, the all-wheel-drive vehicle appearance in the Eifel region.

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Are 'autonomous' cars that clever?

By James Parker

Autonomous cars are coming. As exciting and/or terrifying as it may sound, there's a good chance that in the future we'll all be carting around in driverless vehicles.

It may sound like an age away, but driverless technology has made leaps and bounds over the past few years and we're seemingly getting very close to just hopping into a car that can take us anywhere, all by itself. At least, that's what manufacturers will want you to think.

"The technology is in advance of what the consumer understands and what the laws allow you to do," Matthew Avery, director of insurance research at vehicle research firm Thatcham Research, tells us. We've been invited down to Thatcham's test centre to experience first-hand some of the misconceptions of today's 'autonomous' technology.

The firm, along with the Association of British Insurers, is urging manufacturers to deliver more clarity on what constitutes a driverless feature and a driving assistance feature.

"Manufacturers advertising self-driving cars in their literature isn't a good thing" Avery continued, "I think the consumer needs to be brought in clearly step-by-step."

Our first practical demonstration brought us to the passenger seat of a Tesla Model S 75D – perhaps the car most known for its

'autonomous' capabilities today. Just before setting off with its Autopilot mode in full swing, we're alerted to the firm's advertising of the feature online.

'Full Self-Driving Capability' reads the headline, with the promise of the car being able to match speed to traffic, automatically change lanes and self-park – among others. "It asks me once to put my hands on the wheel, and that's it for the rest of the journey" states Avery as we reach a motorway laid out on the runway in Autopilot mode – and a quick glance over to the dashboard proves he isn't wrong.

Expectedly, the Tesla easily navigates itself between the clear white lines ahead of us – even when encountering a slight bend – but the big problem arises when those lines come to a sudden stop. Lost, it tries to pick out a path to follow on the blank tarmac ahead of us before letting go and bringing itself to a gentle stop – but not without a rather jolty ride along the way.

"We like that it brings itself to a stop – what we don't like is that it hasn't observed any input during the process, putting a potentially distracted driver and those around at risk," Avery said, more calmly on this runway than likely would've been the case on a busy public highway.

It's not only Tesla with this sort of issue, though. In fact, what was up next proved to be much more dangerous.



The technology is in advance of what the consumer understands and what the law allows you to do

We hop into a BMW 530e fitted with 'Driver Assist Plus', which the German manufacturer describing it as offering "partially autonomous driving" – 'partially' proving the keyword. "It's better than the Tesla in that it asks every 15 seconds if my hands are on the wheel, but it'll take any movement – so I only have to give the wheel a wiggle" mentioned Avery, once again in the driver's seat.

We approach the same faux motorway as the Tesla – only this time as the car comes to the radius, it continues straight onwards – across the multiple lanes and sends us facing the prospect of hitting a concrete barrier at speed. Or it would have, had we not been on a runway.

Our final exercise for the day started with us being told: 'you'll

be safer in the back". Consider us excited.

So, into the rear of the Tesla, we climbed. We followed behind the BMW with Autopilot enabled, this time showing how it deals with a late lane change from the car in front. Our first run saw the BMW peel away into the right-hand lane at a good distance from stopped traffic ahead – allowing the Tesla to read a parked car (actually in this case, a soft Ford Fiesta-esque target built to mimic a car) early on, coming to a safe halt behind. A good start, we thought.

We approached the same situation again, only this time the 530e ahead made a very late manoeuvre at speed – one that could happen in the event of a sudden traffic jam. The Model S didn't have time to read the hazard

itself – one that an attentive human could pick up – and flew straight into the back of the soft target.

It serves as a stark reminder though that we're still a long way from a full autonomous future – and just how informed the consumer needs to be on remaining attentive. It's poor enough happening at a closed course, but had that been on a public road? Chaos.

Full autonomy is coming and with the rate 'autonomous' technology on offer today is rapidly improving. For now, though, it's clear that we're a while off hopping into a car that we can pay no attention to while in the driver's seat – and Thatcham's message to manufacturers on clarity is something to be listened to.

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Acknowledgements

DENNY
Joseph

Wife Vera. Grandchildren, Matthew and Donna would like to thank Family and Friends for their attendance at the Funeral on May 8.

For all the many cards and messages of sympathy and donations of £600 for The British Heart Foundation and Macmillan Cancer.

A special thanks to George Stacey Funeral Directors and to Colin Robertson Civil Celebrant on an uplifting and fitting Service for the life of Joe.

DUNNING
Violet

The Family of the late Violet would like to thank their Family and Friends for their kindness and support during their sad loss.

Donations raised £195 for Marie Curie.
Thank you All.

Deaths

BEARD
Brian James

Passed away on March 4, 2018, aged 77 years.

Brian was loved by Partner Helen and missed by all Family and Friends.

All are welcome to attend the Funeral Service to be held on Friday, June 29, 2018, at 1pm, at Stafford Crematorium.

All are welcome to celebrate Brian's life at Lea Hall Social Club, Rugeley, Sandy Lane, WS15 2LB.

Donations to St Giles Hospice.

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Deaths

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Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

MALPASS

Brian

Formerly of The Old Post Office, Hednesford.

Passed away quietly on June 7, 2018, aged 84 years.

Funeral Service at St Editha's Church, Church Eaton on Tuesday, June 26 at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations will be accepted for Riding for the Disabled.

All inquiries to

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PALMER

Doris Marina

(Rowan)

Sadly passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2018, aged 83 years.

Doris was much loved and will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Wednesday, June 27, 10.20am, at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

Donations if so desired for Air Ambulance and RNLI.

All inquiries to

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Deaths

THOMAS

Robert George

Passed away peacefully on Monday, June 11, 2018, aged 74 years.

A special man, much loved and missed by all his Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Monday, June 25 at 2pm, at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, can be made for St Giles Hospice.

All inquiries c/o

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WYKE

Brenda

nee Preston

Passed away peacefully on Friday, June 8, 2018, aged 87 years.

Very much loved and sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service is to be held on Thursday, June 28 at 10am, at St Aidan's Church, Cannock, followed by Committal at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, can be made to support SAFFA.

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to check with any Advertiser
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Antique Valuations and Valuations
Antique valuations and valuations
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01782 638100

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We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
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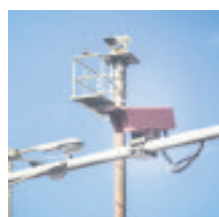
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t.v. / home entertainment

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GRASS CUTTING AND EDGING
Friendly / Reliable Service
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6

Property

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It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

WALSALL bedsit with en-suite and rooms to let. Fully furnished. 07825 581676.

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7
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Full Time General



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Catholic High School, Stafford**
**SCHOOL COVER
SUPERVISOR**
£18,500 per annum
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Training will be provided for the post-holder and if there are certain subject areas of preference to you and your skill-set, we would do our best to accommodate this.

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You must submit a Catholic Education Service application form for this post. Please contact Mrs S Marshall, Headteacher's PA at the email address below or by telephone if you have any queries.

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Closing date for applications is: 2nd July

Address: Blessed William Howard
Catholic High School, Rowley Avenue, Stafford ST17 9AB

Phone No: 01785 244236
www.bwh.staffs.sch.uk

Application packs can be downloaded from our Jobs page
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8

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10
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For Friendship and to enjoy life together.
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Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.
Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363)
registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford,
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General

**I AM TRYING TO GET IN
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with a lady named

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originally from Tividale.

Maiden name Crowley.

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Express and Star,

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HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

**DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
PINESIDE AVENUE, CANNOCK**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 19 June 2018 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Pineside Avenue in Cannock between property numbers 28 and 37 unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Gilwell Road, Holly Hill Road and vice versa. For more information, visit: <https://roadworks.org?tm=104959354>.

The order will come into operation on 25th June 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 6th July 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the gas main replacement works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: PTTRO 4106048; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre;
Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders
<http://roadworks.org>

Date: 21 June 2018

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK

Notice is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this notice to make an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic along Cannock Road, Cannock. For more information regarding access arrangements, timings and diversion routes please visit <https://roadworks.org?tm=105740754>. The Order will come into operation on 9th July 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated the works will be completed on the same day. The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the manhole repairs which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (BROWNHILLS, WALSALL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) intends to make an Order on the A5 Trunk Road, at Brownhills in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to allow street light replacement works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the gap in the central reservation of the A5 -

- approximately 305 metres east of the centreline of the junction of the A5 with the B5011 and the A5195; and
- approximately 440 metres east of the centreline of the junction of the A5 with the B5011 and the A5195.

The closures will be in operation overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours and are expected to start on Monday 9 July 2018, and will continue for approximately four months. The Order will come into force on 6 July 2018.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority, ambulance and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

For further information please contact Esosa Ikolo, a project sponsor on behalf of Highways England, on 0300 470 3105.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.
Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363)
registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford,
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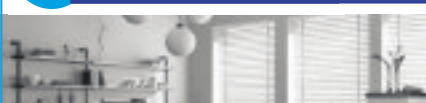
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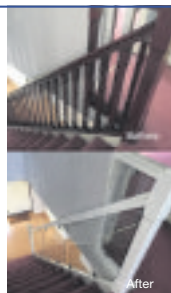
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Frankie goes to the Black Country team

FORMER British and Commonwealth champion Frankie Gavin has signed a one-year management contract with Black Country Boxing Promotions.

The 32-year-old held the British and Commonwealth titles between 2012 and 2015 and challenged Kell Brook for the IBF welterweight title in 2015. As an amateur, Birmingham fighter Gavin won a gold medal at the 2007 World Championships, becoming England's first ever winner of that event. He also won lightweight gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

"I'm delighted to have Frankie on board," said BCB's head of boxing Errol Johnson. "He's one of the most talented boxers that Britain has produced and I believe there are still some very big fights out there for him."

"Frankie knows what we expect of him, and vice-versa, so I'm relishing the opportunity to get him to where we both think he should be."

Gavin said: "I'm glad to be signing with Errol. I have known him a long time and I know he can guide me to a few more successful nights in my career. There's some big fight news coming soon so watch this space."

Midlands Leagues structure confirmed

THE Midlands Leagues structure for next season has been confirmed after an RFU panel dismissed Melbourne's appeal against relegation from Midlands One West. Melbourne will play in Midlands Two East North next season with ten North Midlands clubs in the 14-club Midlands One West.

Kidderminster Carolians have been level-transferred from Midlands Two West North to Midlands Two West South where they will face ten clubs from Warwickshire.

Places have been left open for Oswestry, who are considering returning to the Midlands Leagues from the North where there has been league restructuring, and also Dixonians.

Birmingham & Solihull, who won the Midlands Premier title last season, will play in National Two South next season with Stourbridge remaining in National Two North and Birmingham Moseley in National One. Three North Midlands clubs, Birmingham Barbarians, Five Ways OE and Dudley Wasps will continue to play their rugby outside of the league structure.

Baggies face Hatters in Carabao opener

ALBION have been drawn at home to League One Luton Town in the first round of the Carabao Cup.

The Baggies enter the competition in the first round next season after finishing bottom of the Premier League.

Villa are away at League Two Yeovil Town, while Walsall travel to League Two Tranmere Rovers. It means Saddlers' new striker Andy Cook makes an immediate return to his former club.

"I'm a little bit shocked," Cook said. "I've only just left and I didn't think it'd be that quick that I'd go back to play against them."

"It'll be nice to go back and see what reaction they give me."

Fixtures will take place during the week commencing Monday, August 13. Extra-time has been removed, so the ties go straight to penalties, reverting to the traditional alternating format, if scores are level after 90 minutes. VAR will also be used in all League Cup fixtures played at Premier League stadiums next term.

Danescourt mourning loss of legend Barnes

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

TRIBUTES have been paid to Wolverhampton Cricket Club legend David Barnes following his death at the age of 80.

As a player, captain, chairman and president, Barnes was with the club for a stunning 65 years – making him the longest-serving member in their 183-year history.

He led the Danescourt men to victory in the final of the National Knockout – then known as the DH Robins Cup – at Lord's in 1973, beating Maidstone-based Mote, with Barnes scoring the winning runs.

Barnes, from Tettenhall, played 'well into his fifties' and returned to Lord's for the final of the competition in 1988, which Wolves lost to Enfield in a replayed game at Edgbaston after the original tie had been washed out.

Committee member David Lycett – who been with the club for 60 years, also as a player and chairman – was a close friend of Barnes's, and said: "He was here with us at the club for 65 years. He went to Tettenhall College and joined the club in his teens."

Regard

"David took us to Lords in '73 for the final of the National Knockout, and that was a really big deal. I wasn't playing for the firsts then but we all went down to watch and it was a great day."

"We weren't in the Birmingham League at the time. We were still in the old Midland Club Championship, which we won year in and year out."

"The competition had only been going for a few years and we were the first team from the Midlands to win it, beating Mote. He then went again in '88 as a player, under the late Pete Jones – and not many can say they've been able to go and play there, at Lord's twice. He played well into his 50s. He was a fine cricketer and a fine supporter of our club. I held



David hits the winning runs at Lord's

him in the highest regard." Barnes, as well as playing for Wolverhampton, also turned out for Shropshire in the minor counties, Worcestershire's seconds and Staffordshire's over-50s. He was a batsman but also useful with the ball, with his off-spin.

He went with the Midlands Cricket Club Conference to Australia in the 70s and captained the Wolverhampton Cricket Association side which toured the West Indies in 1976.

"David was fully committed to the club. His two sons, Richard and James, played for the club too – James has retired now, Richard still turns out for Bromsgrove and I'm sure his son plays, so cricket is in their family," said Lycett. "He was a personal friend of mine, we went on holidays together. He was just wonderful. He will be greatly missed."

Club president Geoff Hopkinson was also part of



David with a copy of the iconic picture

the 1973 national knockout trophy-winning side. He said: "I was the opening bat in that team, David was a very fine off-spinner – he was always among the wickets. He always fielded first slip too."

"That day, we were at the home of cricket and it was an honour. We had a very good side, an exceptional side, which was led with aplomb – David was a thinking cricketer. He played until his late 50s and when we were playing together, we would have been playing about 60 matches a year. I took over as president from him, he did a hell of a lot behind the scenes as well. Without characters like him, it's hard for clubs to survive. He pointed the way."

Chairman Mike Elphick added: "Having recently become chairman of the club, I was aware of David's long and considerable contribution both on and off the field. He will be sadly missed."



David, front left, and former team-mates celebrate 40 years since winning The Derrick Robins Trophy at Lord's

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Change at top as Penkrudge in losing draw

WALMLEY'S 92-run win over Attock helped them to leapfrog Penkrudge – who clung on for a losing draw with Harborne – at the top of the Birmingham League division two. Former IPL player Srikant Mundhe struck 156 from 151 balls in Harborne's total of 262-9.

Nihal Shilar took 4-62 and Aqab Ahmed 4-81 for Penkrudge who closed on 153-9 after losing six overs due to rain.

The match between Pershore and C&R Hawks ended in a draw. Pershore skipper Chris Ridings was unbeaten on 122 in his side's 251-5. In reply, Hawks finished on 222-8 after Kabir Ali and Mubeen Rashid took them to 129-4.

Matthew Kirby and Tom Webb scored 32 apiece but Milford Hall were dismissed for 132 in 48 overs against Rugby in division three. Rugby eased to victory thanks to 62 from skipper Owen Edwards. Webb completed a fine all-round effort for Milford with 3-26.

Handsworth reached 186 in 51 overs against Lichfield. Tom Stone (4-36), Sam Cottrill (3-36) and Jack Warren (4-48) shared the wickets for Lichfield. A superb spell from Kenrick Smith (6-39) after Winston Lewis took the first three wickets for 20 saw Lichfield 135 all out.

In the Staffs Clubs Championship, Cannock went down by seven wickets to Beacon, who were set a revised target.

Whittington's Jono Alcock blasted out Rugeley out for just 92, chasing 219, taking nine wickets for 41 runs. Rugeley's Mohammed Sultan took 4-44 and top-scored with 28.

Armitage scored 133-5, with Ben Beck unbeaten on 44, as they beat Fordhouses 3rd XI (132) by five wickets.

Fred Wilkinson's 111 was in vain for Burntwood St Matthew's who totalled only 173 in reply to the 253-9 scored by Brewood 3rd XI.

County comes up short in T20 bid

STAFFORDSHIRE have failed to reach the finals day of the Unicorns T20 competition.

Kadeer Ali's side won one and lost one of their double-header with Cumberland, meaning they can finish no higher than second in Group One.

They were dismissed for 141 in reply to the hosts' daunting total of 221-5 in the first game but bounced back in the afternoon with a four-wicket win, Ali (49) and Mike Hill (36) seeing them to 134-6.

Aniz Raza had earlier picked up 3-13 and Dan Richardson 2-23.

Skipper Ali felt his side have acquitted themselves well in the new format.

"I think we have done OK, we won five games out of eight and gave a few new guys their debut," he said.

"We have quite a young side, especially in the bowling department, and the experience they have picked up this summer will stand them in good stead for next year."

School team unbeaten in tournament



Wolgarston's team on the day

A GROUP of Wolgarston High School's Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in The Under 15's Chance to Compete Outdoor Competition tournament.

The tournament was organised by Staffordshire Cricket and Chance to Shine.

Wolgarston's team on the day were Ross Parker, Nathan Harris, Nathan Parton, Miles Davies,

Will Birch, Adam Beeken, James Whatmore, Adam Binfield and Sam Capewell.

The team played four games in the group stage beating every team before qualifying for the final which they also won comfortably with overs to spare. They have all received medals and trophies. "The team was amazing. We won the tournament, going

unbeaten throughout!" said PE teacher Karl Mason.

"Our students were a credit to our school in their performance and also how they conducted themselves. Each team member played brilliantly demonstrating their excellent teamwork. "However, a special mention needs to be given to Ross Parker who captained our team superbly."

Staffs keen to start up new competition

THE Staffordshire County Bowls Association are backing plans to launch a prestigious one-off county competition that will take place in 2020, writes Tim Allen.

The Champions Trophy is the brainchild of Martin Orme, who is hoping to facilitate the landmark event both to promote the sport to a new generation of players, and also to raise money for the Motor Neurone charity in memory of Staffordshire bowls stalwart Mel Evans.

This new, one-off tournament will bring together some of the greatest achieving players from the Midlands region.

With the help of Bob Marsh and Nev Ward, Orme has compiled a unique points-based qualifying system that will bring together 32 players who have each won county-recognised competitions this century.

■ ■ ■ The South Staffordshire ladies team return to action on Sunday when they take on Warwick & Worcester in the national ladies Inter-county Championship.

South Staffs will be keen to get some points on the board in section two of the competition following a defeat to North Derbyshire in their opening game of the season.

■ ■ ■ Chadsmoor's clash with Willenhall Nordley in the Dudley Building Society League has been postponed and will be played on Wednesday, June 20.

Pitmen pair leave to join Dabbers

HEDNESFORD TOWN goal-getters Danny Glover and James Lawrie have left to join Nantwich Town.

Glover was the main man for the Pitmen last season, ending up as top scorer after netting 27 times.

Lawrie was also an attacking menace for Rob Smith's side, chipping in with 13 goals.

Glover and Lawrie are the first signings of the summer for the Dabbers, who play in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier.

Hednesford are still waiting to find out whether they will be in the Northern Premier or the newly formed Southern League Central next term.

TWINS CRASH OUT AT 80mph

SNETTERTON proved to be a tricky track for region's finest as the British Superbike series returned after a six-week break.

For the Wigley twins, who have become accused to crashes and seriously bad luck, round four of the British Supersport series nearly ended in disaster – or even worse. With Kurt and Matt, aged 22, from Hednesford, both enjoying the speeds and consistency they had been threatening to achieve all year during the opening race, the track was suddenly covered in oil as up to seven riders – including both Wigley brothers – approached the corner at around 80mph.

Kurt said: "During the sprint race on the final lap, we were caught up when a competitor's engine blew up and dumping an unbelievable amount of oil on the track. I crashed out first from eighth and Matt shortly followed.

"Matt was knocked unconscious when he collided with a bike lying down in the field.

"I was OK and Matt later returned to the circuit from hospital following a series of scans on his head and neck. Other than a few broken fingers and major bruising, he was OK but unfit to race, suffering with concussion. Both bikes were badly damaged so the team worked brilliantly to piece together one for me."

Kurt impressively got back on his damaged bike for race two and brought it home in 10th.

Following a successful campaign at the North West 200 and Isle of Man TT races on the roads, Michael Rutter and the Bathams Racing team were also back in short circuit action. And the Brierley Hill-born rider admitted Snetterton had been "scarier than the TT" at times as he fought for a hard-earned 10th place in round four of the National Superstock 1000 Championship.

Eccleshall's Storm Stacey, 14, endured a disastrous British Talent Cup round, which ended before it had even begun. Adrian Mason, owner of his British Motostar FPW Racing team, said: "Storm came of his push bike whilst training.

"He tried to ride Friday morning but was struggling to put any weight on his left wrist."



Matt Wigley parts company from his bike ...



... and hits the track in no uncertain terms ...



... suffering broken fingers and major bruising ...



... before being declared unfit to race

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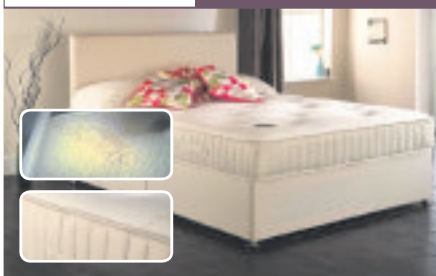
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